

The Five Star Stories®



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MAMORU NAGANO

The Five Star Stories®



Written & Illustrated by
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Dedicated to Fatimas Everywhere



his is a tale of the god of light, Amaterasu, and his wife Lachesis, who emerged victorious from an era of wars that raged throughout four solar systems. It will also tell of the many bold and daring headliners who battled courageously during those times, some victorious, some not, but always in the name of chivalry.

The Five Star Stories[®]

VII-1



e open with Sopp trying to figure out a name for the dragon nymph that revitalized every thing but his Amaterasu super powers. Sopp Sopp Bo Bopp, Banana Fana Fo Fopp, Fe-fi-mo Mopp... Suezhou! And wouldn't you know it, they're spotted by Di-Barrow's troops. While hightailing it, who do they run into (literally) but the heroine of the present story, Atropos, who disposes of the pursuers. While Sopp is recuperating in Atropos' hideout, he dreams of his first years of infancy and how he recovered from the comatose state he was born into. Meanwhile, Barrow's search and destroy mission is joined by the Pied Piper mercenaries, as Allen Braford is dispatched to scout the whereabouts of the three targets. He's successful, but Atropos has some tricks up her sleeve, one of which is the Auge, the Sopp-designed prototype of the Knight of Gold.

#4 Destiny's Three Fates: Atropos
BOTH 2992



I'm gonna run
some names by...
and you stop me
when one strikes
your fancy.

Well then...
what are we
gonna call you?

For example... strength... depth of character... How about Ahura Mazuda... or Odin... or Narasimha!

Sooo... we have to find you a name that's strong and majestic.

Let's see... you're gonna grow up to be a great dragon someday...

お前は
何だ!!

Naw... none of them have enough gravity...

But there's also the sacred, godlike aspect... How about Elysium... or Centimanus... or Vohu Manah!

Nobility... grandeur, perhaps... How about Aslarte... or Alarapa... Quetzalcoatl!

I wish Ballanche were still around... He was great at finding names.

Flashback to J.C. 2970

Yep... all done. If I left it up to you, the great procrastinator, they'd all be on their death beds before anyone knew who they were.

If not, I've got a couple of suggestions...

Hey... have you come up with names for the new kids yet?

With names like that, they're sure to grow into beautiful young women.

The Three Fates...

I would have never... There's something... mystical about them... Yeah... I like that...

Wow...

They're the names of three goddesses... Atropos, Lachesis, and Clotho, the Three Fates.

I took the names from a book I once read.

The reason I chose them is that the Three Fates were ugly old scags.

Uh-uh...
Wrong again,
Sopp...

He was the
best friend
I ever had...

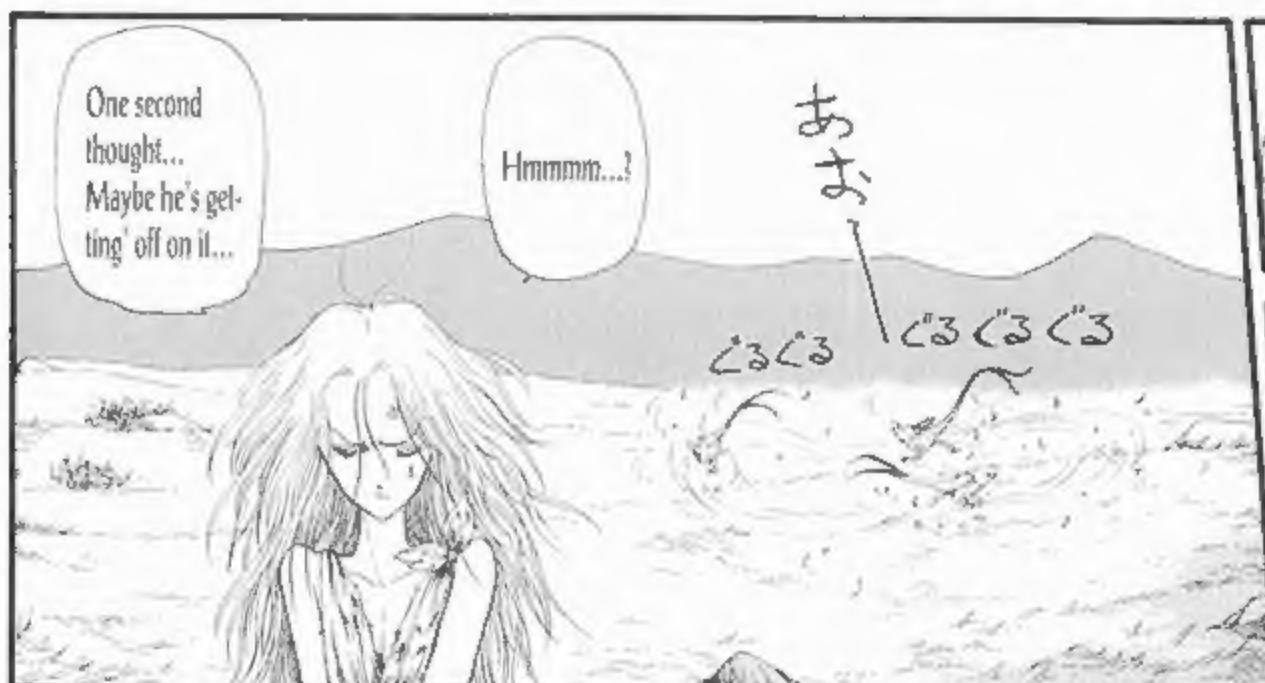
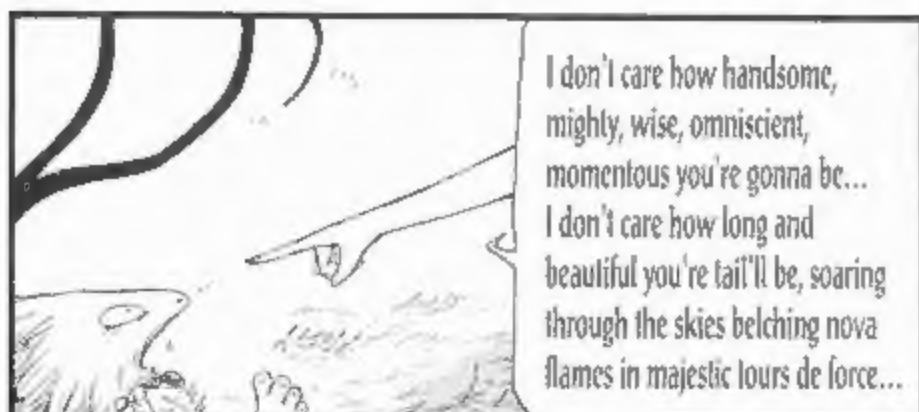
You are from
now on...
Suezhou!

I think he's
pissed...

We could call you
"Suezue," the last one in
line, child of the future...
But even that's too good a
name for the likes of you...
Yep... Suezhou it is!

That woman on the
bus... She said that
LED denoted Fortune,
the Future...

You don't need any noble, majestic, god-like name like Siegfried, Bahamut, Centimanus, Susanoo, Astarte, Erechtheus, Balder, Skrimir, Oberon, Ch Chulainn, Jupiter, Baba Yaga, Ahura Mazuda, Vohu Manah, Mahadeva, Saitin, Marduk, Thunderbird, Narasimha, Zarathustra, Til-pae-shu-rekka, Bösendorfer, Erich Hartmann, Eric Clapton, Deathhead or even Darth Vader*...



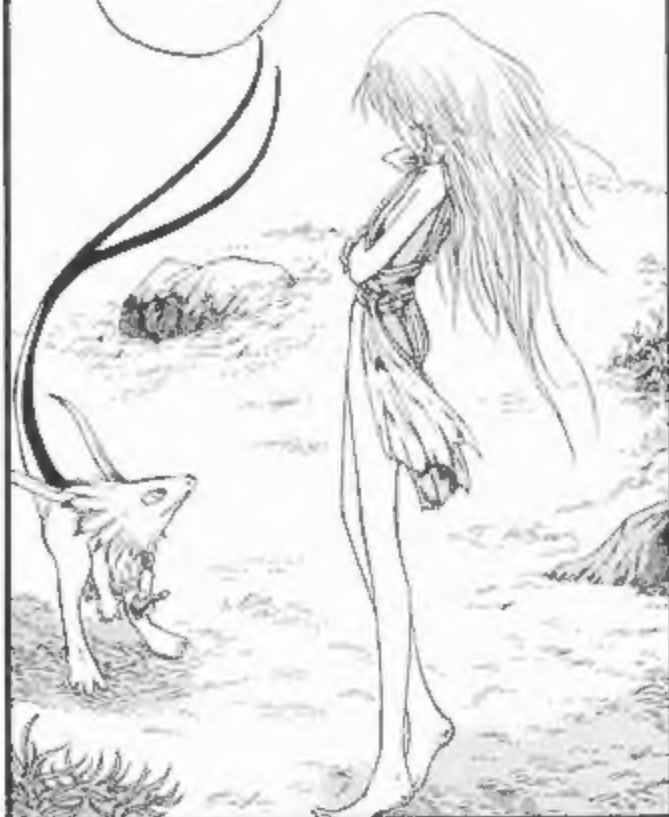
*Bösendorfer, master of the pianoforte, international idol and divine treasure (well, almost); Erich Hartmann, the world's greatest fighter pilot, god of the Bf-109; Eric Clapton, god of the guitar (at one time), husband of Patricia Boyd-Harrison (also at one time); Deathhead, symbol of the Hell's Angels motorcycle gang, guardian deity of the Harley; Darth Vader, America's most hated villain before Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden.

Can't ride a dragon
nymph horseback... and
I don't know about you,
but I'm getting hungry.



Where in the hell are
we, anyway! Not a
village or road in sight...
not even a clue...

Come to
think of it,
though...



Yeah, I guess
that is quite
a mouthful
for you...



I'm getting
hungry...
say it!

Hun...

Hun...



Hun...



Famished!!

How about...
famished?



...pretty fancy
civilian-use dig...

What do we
have here...?



??



たた
たた



?

はらへた!
はらへた!
はらへた!
はらへた!
はらへた!



Famished! Famished! Famished! Famished! Soup!

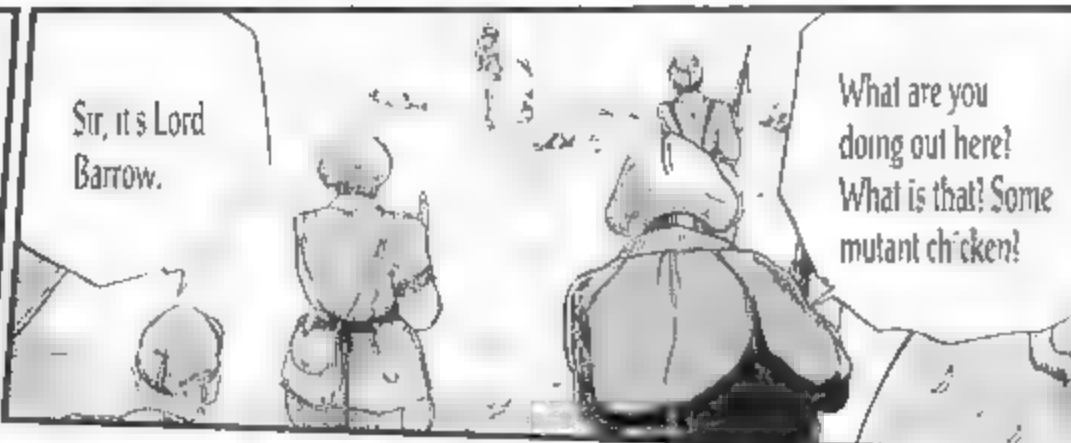
It's a woman... There's a woman out there! She's with a red and white creature of some sort with a bifurcated tail.



What's a human being doing way out here?



Sir, it's Lord Barrow.



What are you doing out here? What is that? Some mutant chicken?

This is humiliating. . . I can't think of anything to say.

Yes sir... Capture the animal and kill the woman... roger, over and out.



Squad leader here... over. We have a woman dressed in rags down here with some animal holding a bottle that is emitting light!



This doesn't look good at all!



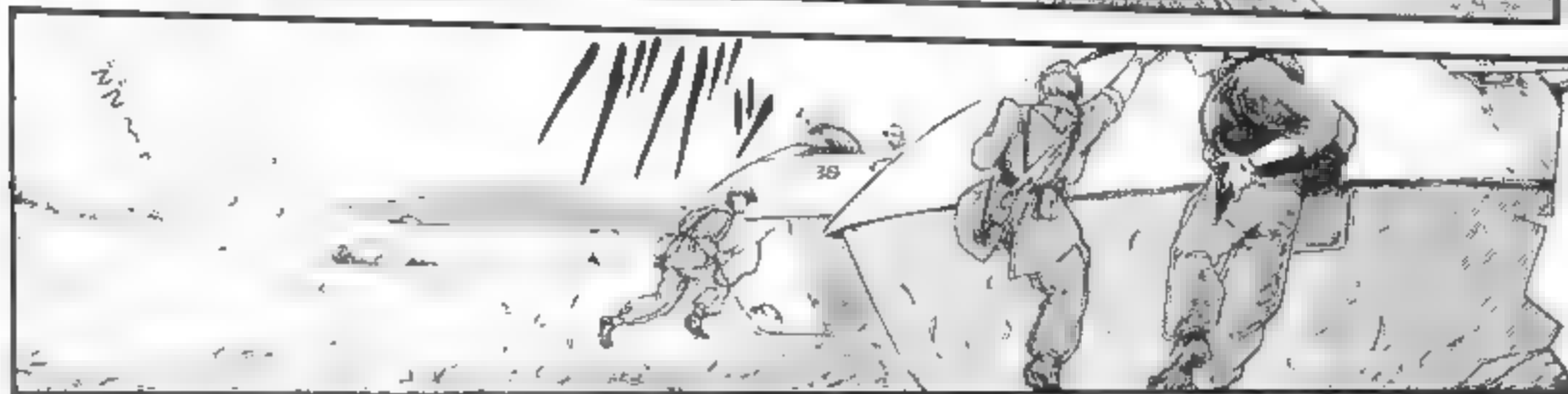
Suezhou! We gotta make a run for it.



It's no use... My body won't function.



No! That's
the wrong
way... Stop!



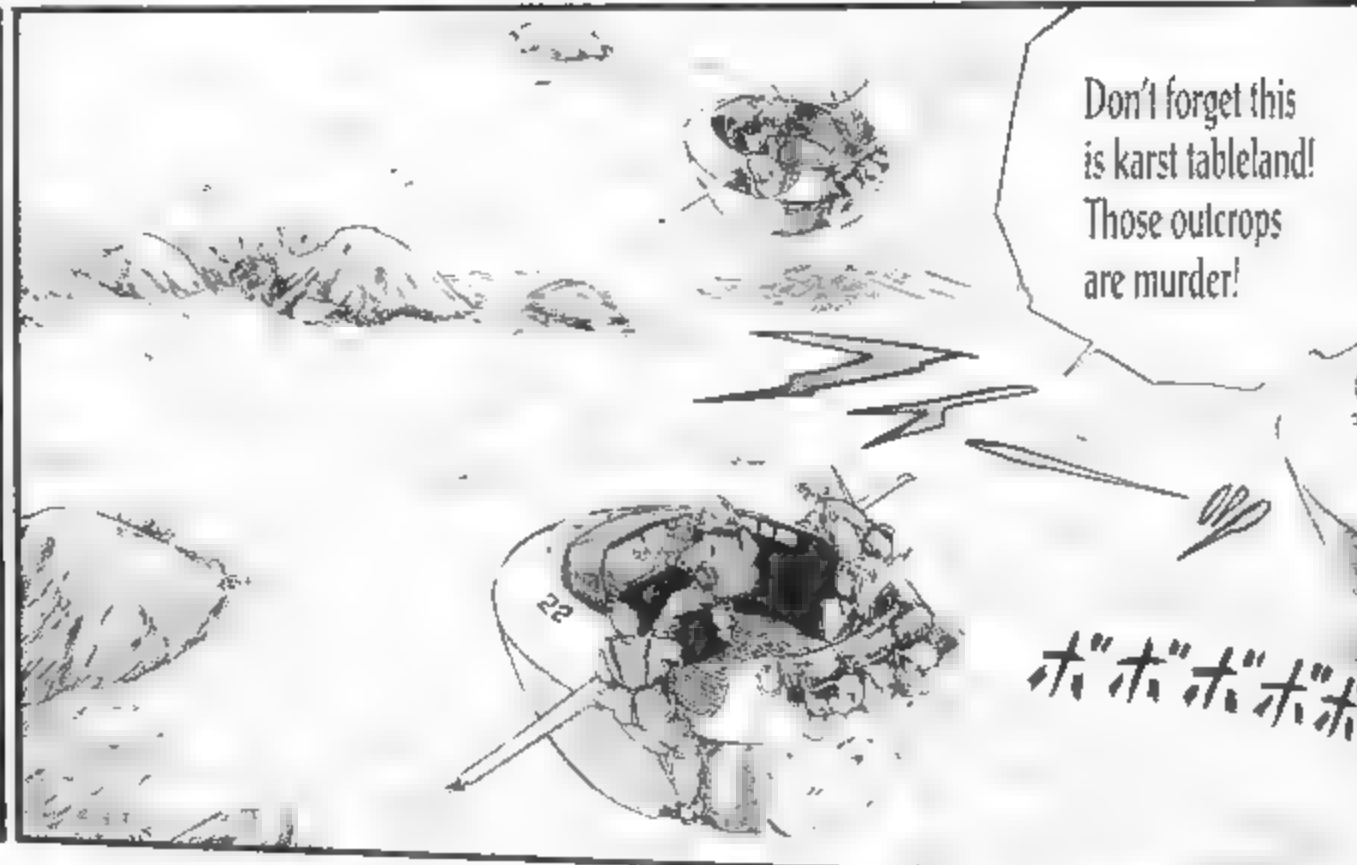
Get after it and
bring it back alive!
We'll take care of
the woman later!



He's sure quick
on his feet when
pursuing it!



Sue...
Suezhou...



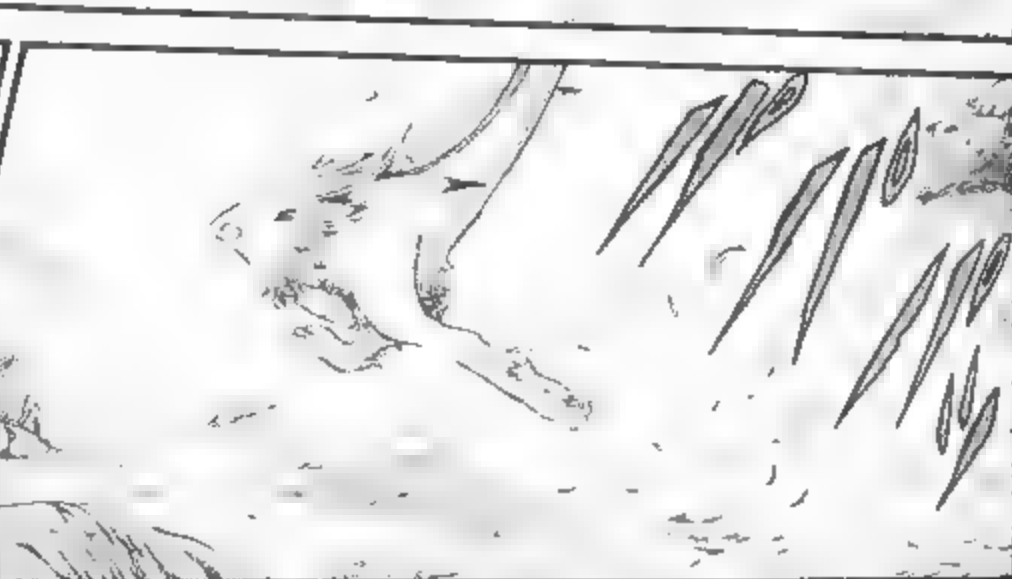
Don't forget this
is karst tableland!
Those outcrops
are murder!

ホッホッホッホッホ



Stay in
pursuit...
We'll tire
him out.

Hey, he's pretty
fast... He can
really scurry...





You said "soap,"
didn't you?





Big .

...sister.



You go and
tell that to
Lord Barrow!

Wait a minute, sir.
What a waste!
Such a cute little
thing like that!



Yes sir...
You're right...
I lost my head!

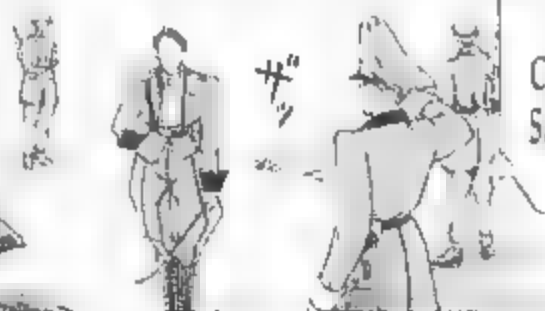
Why do you think
we're earning so
much extra pay on
this mission? Do
what you're ordered
to do, damn!







Looks like Sir
Braford didn't
make it in time.



Commander
Sakat!

We seem to have
a headdler
butting into our
business here.

ゴッ

What a cut...
no ordinary
swordsman
here.



Mother ship!
Check what's
out in that
direction... over.

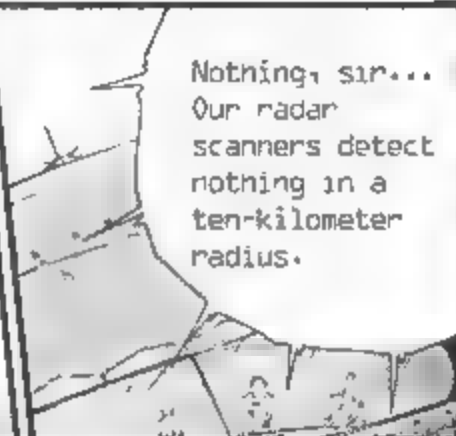


All of sudden... he
started crawling
around on the ground
like he was looking
for something...

Crawling around
on the ground...
How disgusting!



Nothing, sir...
Our radar
scanners detect
nothing in a
ten-kilometer
radius.



Now what
in the hell's
Braford up to?



Camels...
Two of 'em...



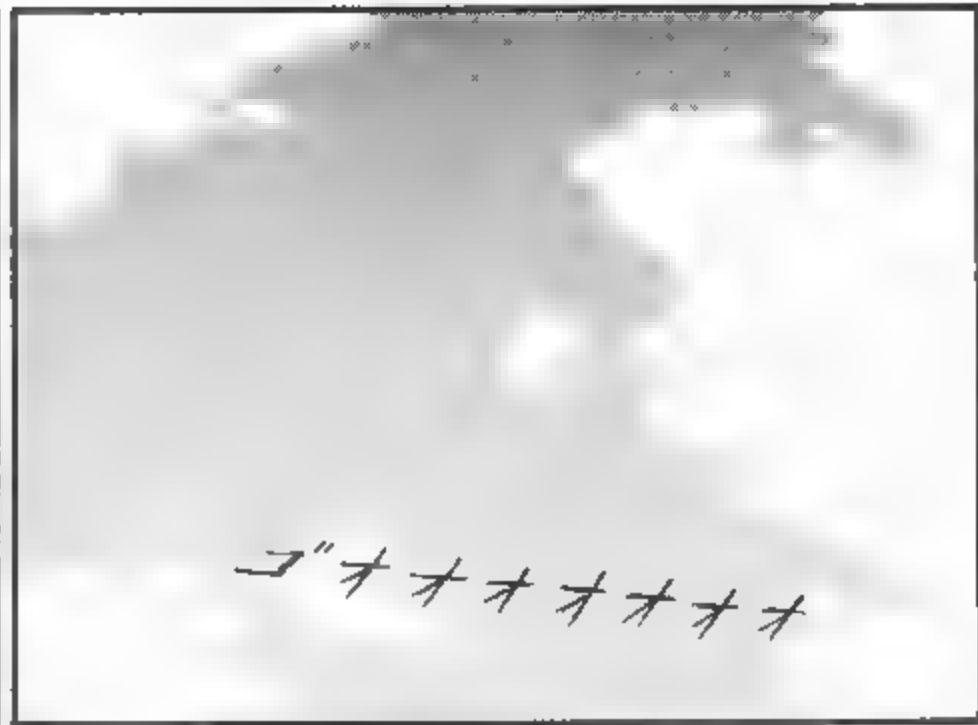


They said we'll
be setting up
camp here for
the night!

Master



Hmmm... Out
here the autumn
constellations are
already appearing.



ゴ"オオオオオオオオ



Let's see... 172cm
in height weighing
about 45kg... Pretty
short for even a
female headliner,
don't you think?

Even so, she's no
ordinary knight.



What do you
make of these
footprints?

I can't even see
them! Only you
can make them
out on this
grassland



Look over there.
A cluster of stars
are forming a huge
Sulegosaurus.



A female headliner!
...carrying away a
wounded woman!

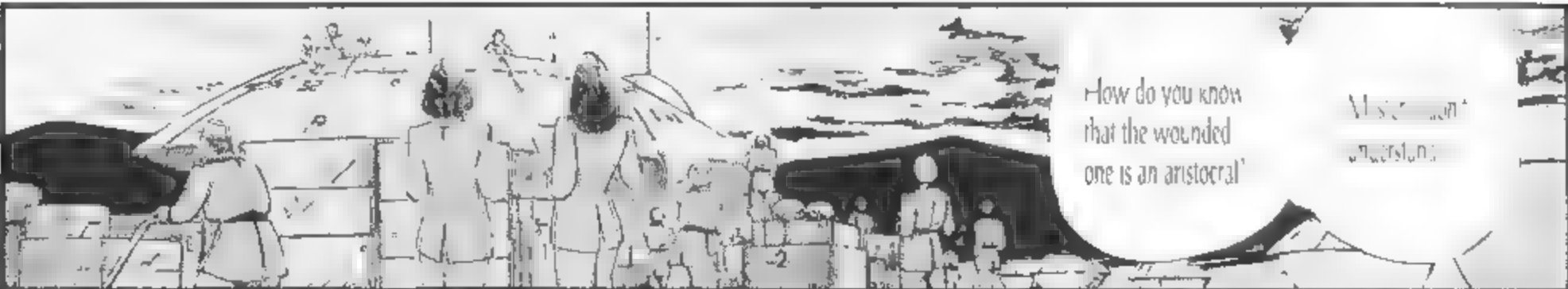


Master... I might
be a falma... but
I still can't see the
stars during
daylight.*



...But the other
one... she's one
very complicated
opponent.

Hmmm... the one
who was wounded is
of definite nobility
possibly royal blood.
that's all I can tell
about her...



How do you know that the wounded one is an aristocrat?

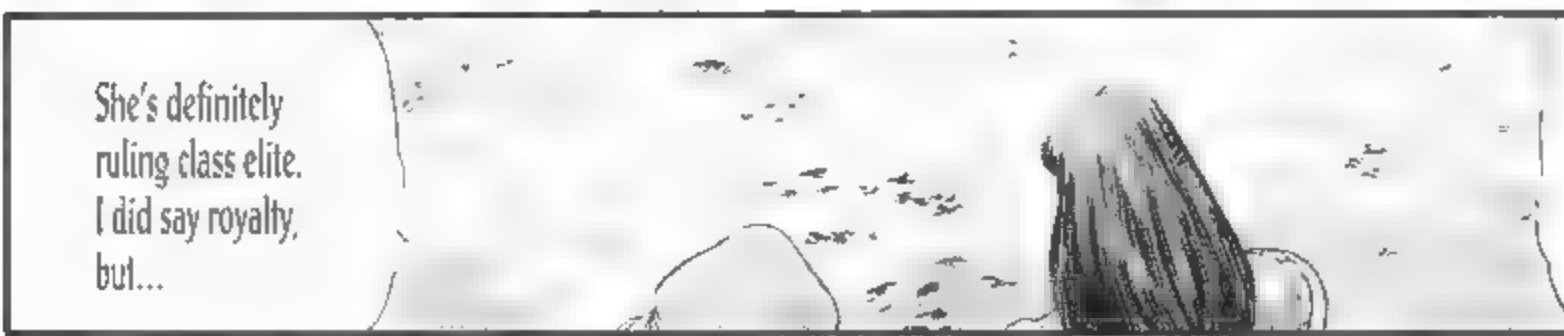


Also straight toes not stretched open when walking indicates that she does no manual labor of any kind.

She was bare foot for some reason and the print shows a very soft heel.



If you could see her footprints, you'd understand.



She walks with a slight quirk... with her jaw open, her shoulders back, toes hitting the ground first.



Here... let me bring the footprint into full view.

The width of her feet...



Now compare it to the headliner's footprint.



Here's an outline of her foot according to the shape of her shoes.



Here is a footprint made by that rather small female communications officer.



I said she''

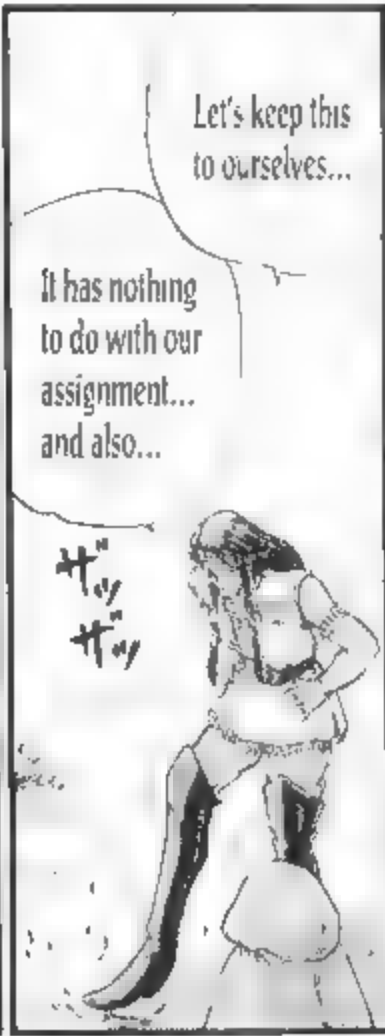


...but I'm not sure if she's a man or a woman.

Humph... Now it seems an thing like it. More strange footprints.



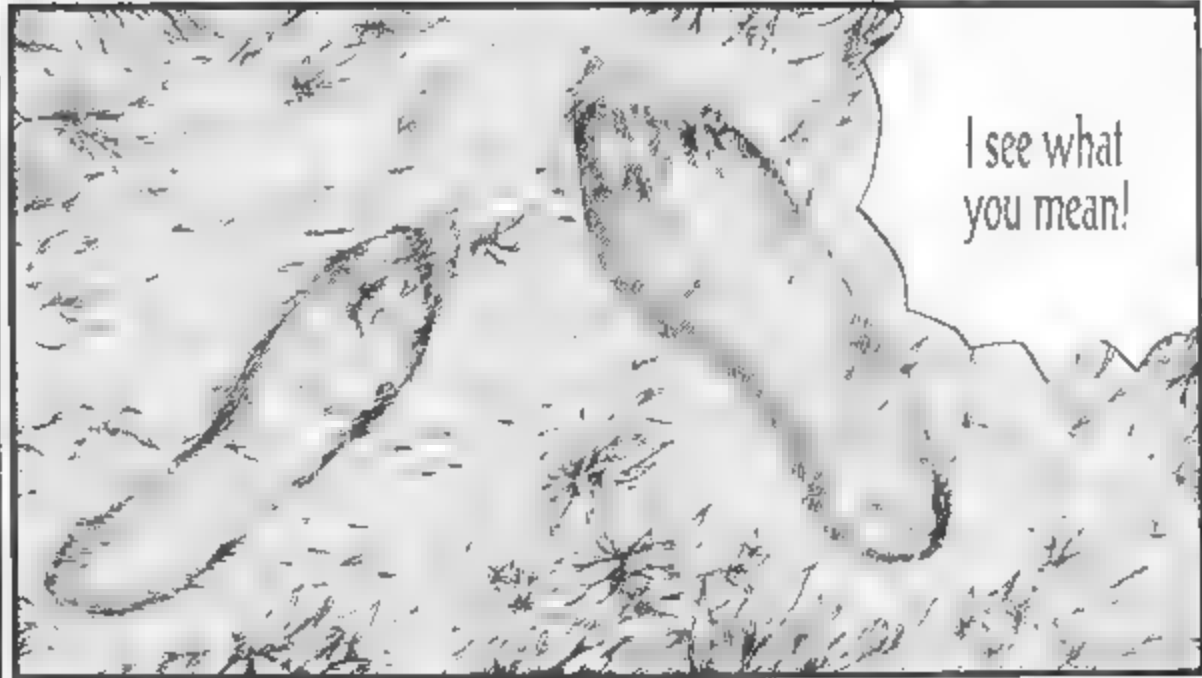
...because I have
a very good idea
about exactly
who she is.



Let's keep this
to ourselves...

It has nothing
to do with our
assignment...
and also...

ハッ
ハッ



I see what
you mean!



That shape...
It's



and roasted
wild duck.

Sir Sukal, today's
entrées are creme
de l homard



Still scuffling
about out there?
Like ruffians...

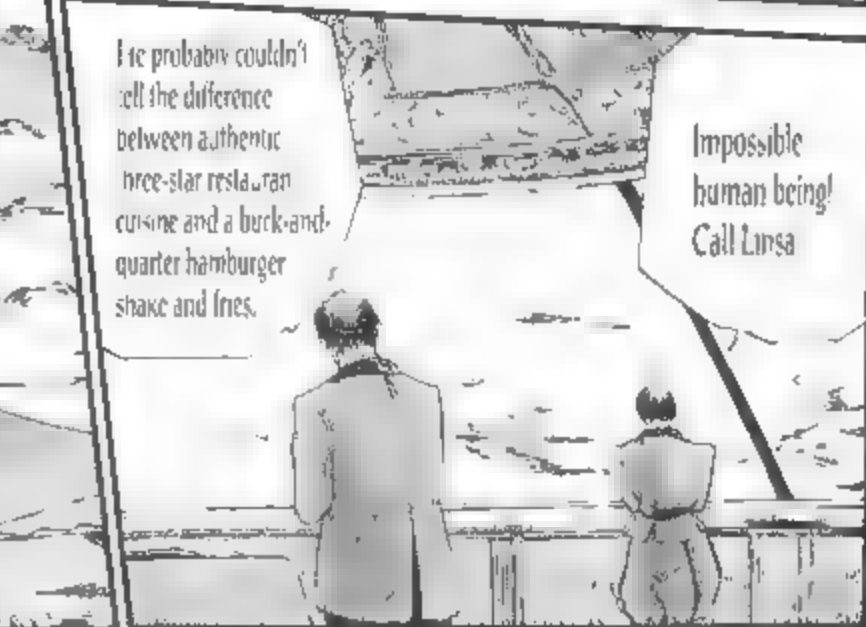


It's good to be out
in the wilderness
again... All this
moving around
dries you up



Aah he men-
tioned that this
evening he will
be an
"camp ng jui"
as he put it

I'll have the duck...
W'll Mister Bradford
be blessing us with
his presence this
evening!



I probably couldn't
tell the difference
between authentic
three-star restaurant
cuisine and a buck-and-
quarter hamburger
shake and fries.

Impossible
human being!
Call Linsa

You said you knew the name of that female headliner...

You can take off your cape if you want... All the grunts are in the mess hall.

Ok... I'll make some soup with duck liver and butter.

同様に、
鴨肝とバター
でスープを
作ります。

After we're
done, we'll
cook it in
some oil.

1104
1104
1104

1104
1104

Good for you!
Get in to
know your way
around the
campfire, I see...

Then bury it in
the hot ashes to
steam and roast!

The best way is to
gut it and fill the
cavity with fragrant
wild grass.

She may even be
as good as me...

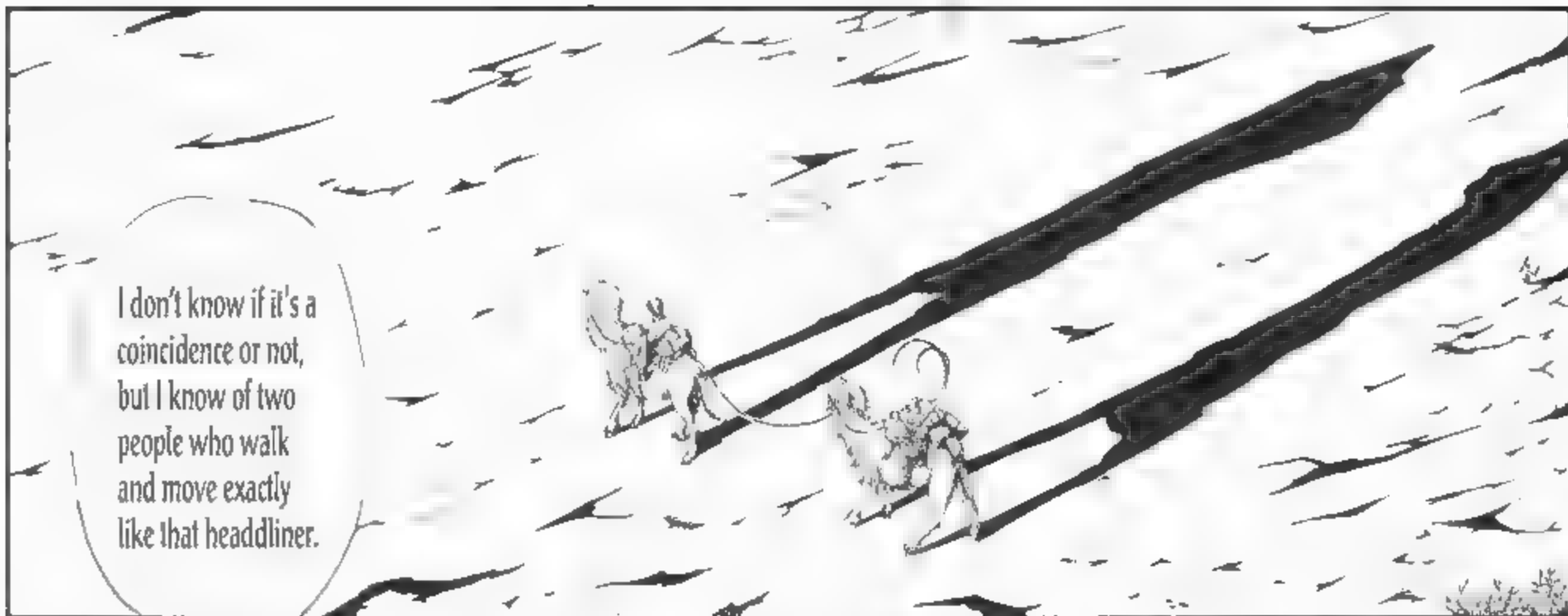
Lord Sukat even noticed
that the cuts she inflicted
were made by no ordinary
swordsman...

It's not all that rare
for headliners of
the same family or
masters and their
proteges...

She also has a
peculiar way of
planting her foot
and twisting...

And the same
goes for fatimas
created by the
same meight...

1104
1104



I don't know if it's a coincidence or not, but I know of two people who walk and move exactly like that headliner.



...And the other is you...

One is my wife Qukey's fatima, Aglaia...



In other words, that so-called female headliner is one of Ballanche's masterpiece fatimas, just like you!

...Kyo...



...there are those with above A power gauge ratings of 2A and 3A.

Of the forty some odd masterpieces that Ballanche created .

She's a fatima equipped at birth with the fighting skills that we headliners have to train for decades to attain

There is Paltanon,
who is missing, but
the hair I found today
is of a straight-haired
Anian type fatima...

Clotho is sealed
inside Junchoon...

...and Lachesis, who
may or may not have
3A-level skills, has
chestnut brown hair...
So there is only one
possibility remaining...

The fighting skills
displayed today exceed
your rating of "A,"
putting this fatima in
the power gauge class
of 2A... even 3A.

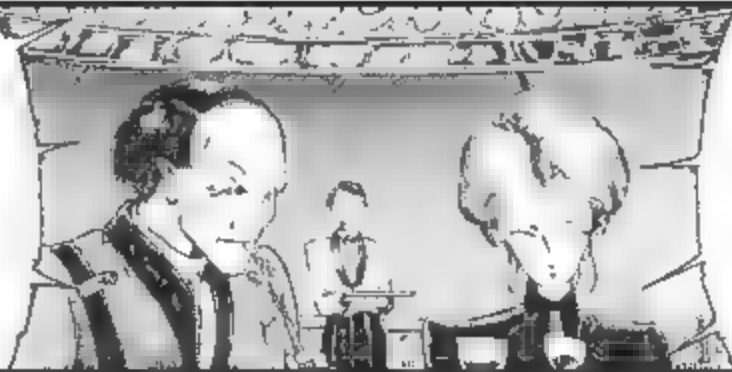
Fatimas with 2A fighting skill
ratings are Ballanche's Queen,
Majer, LeLe-ist-Hotos, Halhsno-
Hortes and Hugtrang.

There are only three
fatimas with 3A
ratings in the history
of the Galaxy...

The all 3A
rated fatima,
also missing...

Atropos!

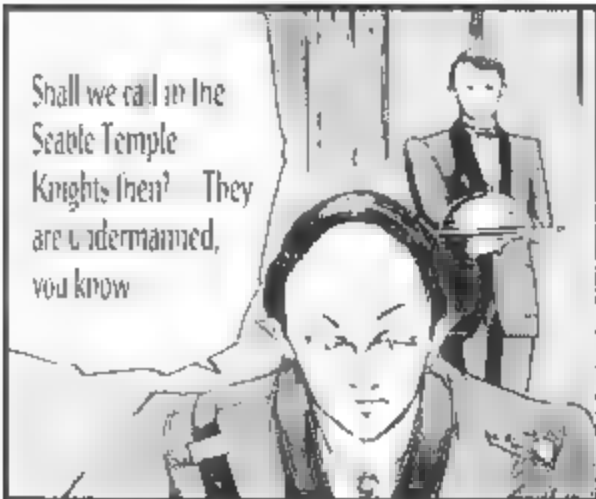
If our mission drags out much longer or we start attracting attention, even the Para Guild no they've probably started the move already.



Assuming the reports filed out by Bratford and you are accurate, it seems that in addition to our search for the "Water of Life," we have a possible headliner and/or mortar headbatter on our hands.



Shall we call in the Seattle Temple Knights then? They are undermanned, you know.



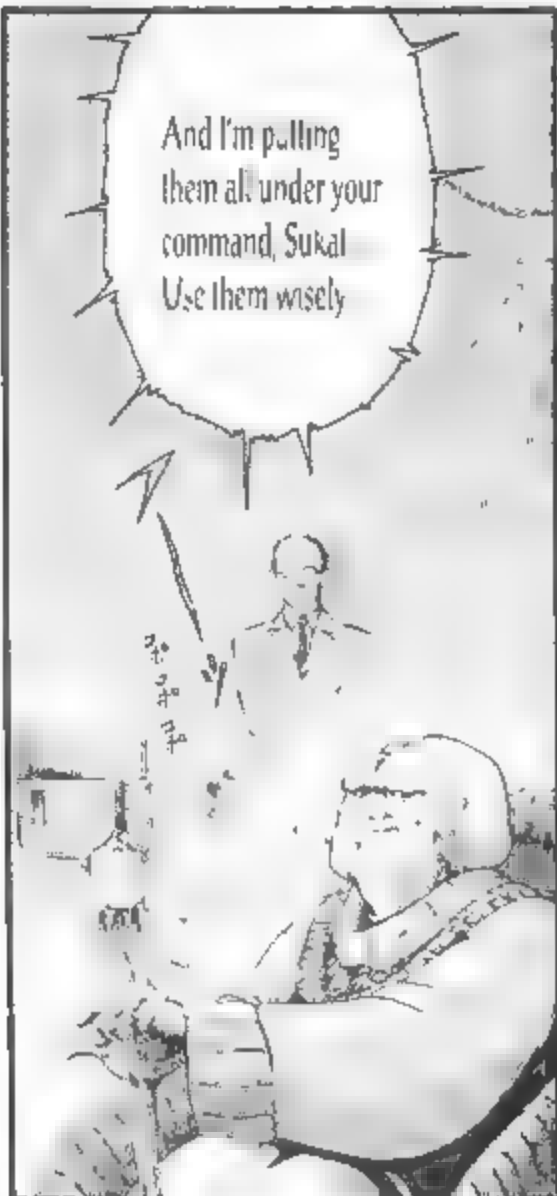
It's going to take about 30 more hours to prepare your Zakker. So in the meantime we have only Bratford's Apache...

...pay our trump card, and call down the Pied Pipers...



I have another idea... I was saving them in reserve as an anti-Para Guild deterrent, but I guess we are going to have to...

And I'm pulling them all under your command, Sukal. Use them wisely.

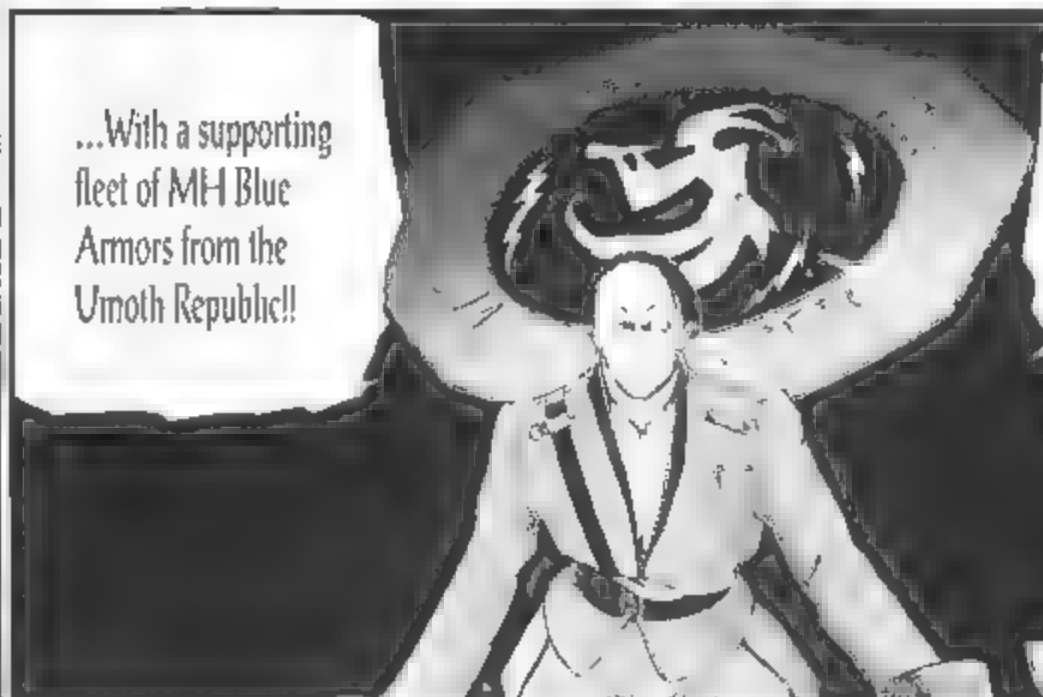


You know of them, I see. Bully for you, Sukal.

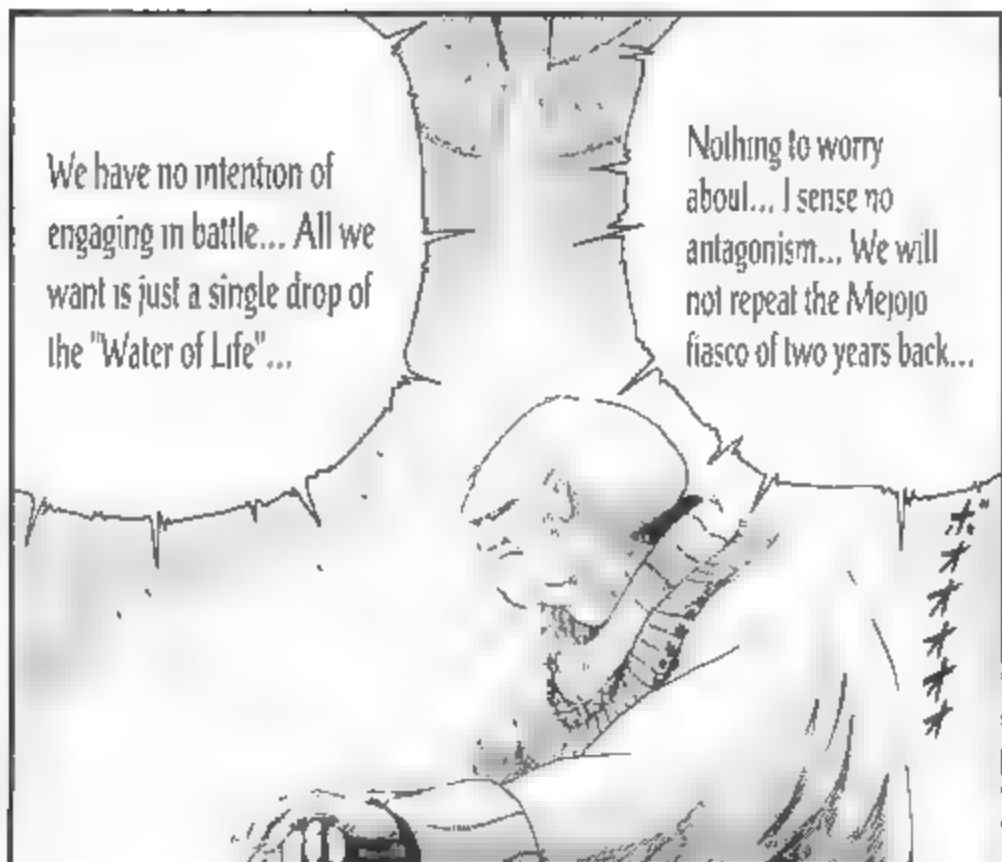
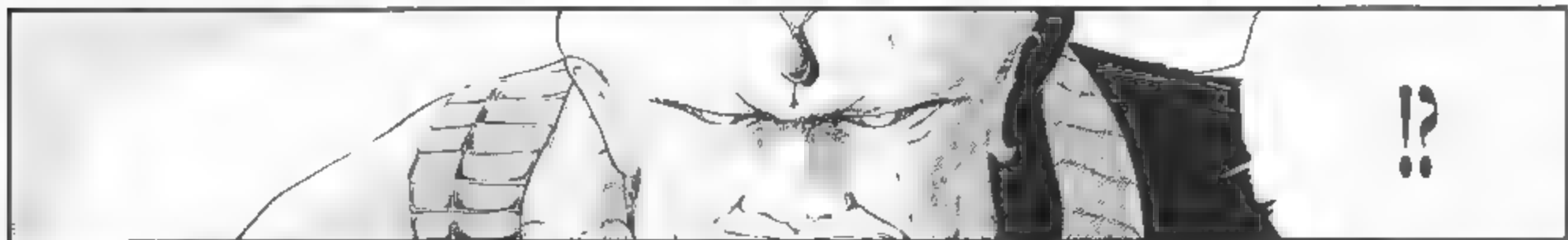


The Pied Pipers!! From Kallamity? The Galaxy's top mercenary group!

...With a supporting fleet of MH Blue Armors from the Umoth Republic!!



Of course! They're the ones who possess the MH Vai-O-La designed by Zebeé Corter...



Nothing to worry
about... I sense no
antagonism... We will
not repeat the Mejojo
fiasco of two years back...

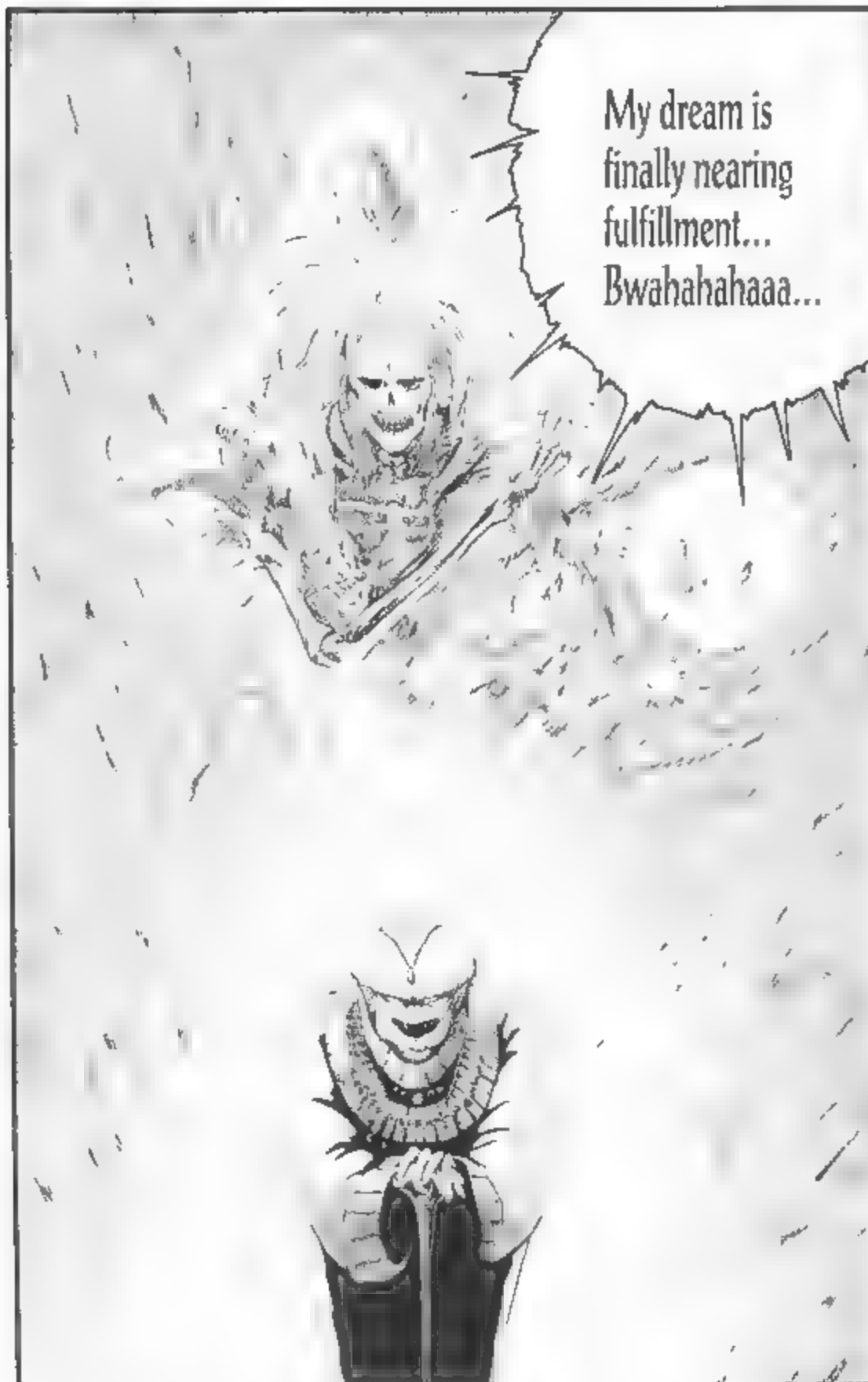
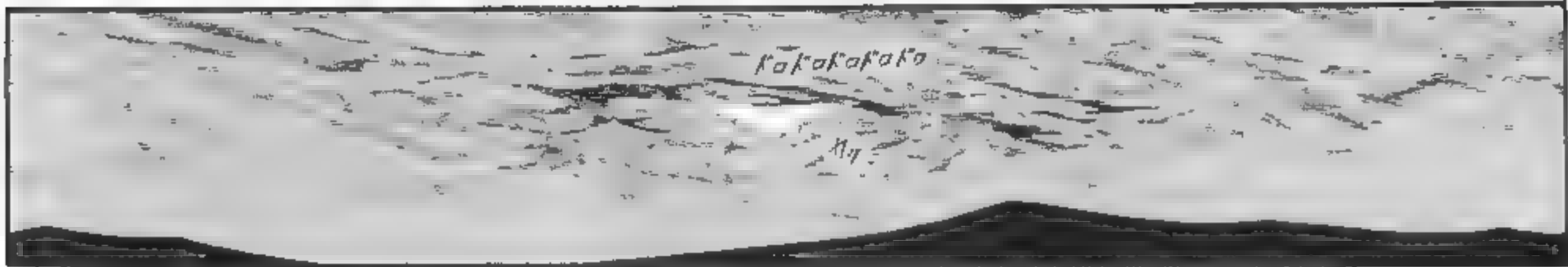




Nothing to
worry about...
He's leaving..



Are we go ng
to be alright?



My dream is
finally nearing
fulfillment...
Bwahahahaaa...



It seems that since
coming to Kastenpo,
the keenness of my
powers has for
some reason...

...not dwindled on
this forced march,
but has rather
been enhanced...

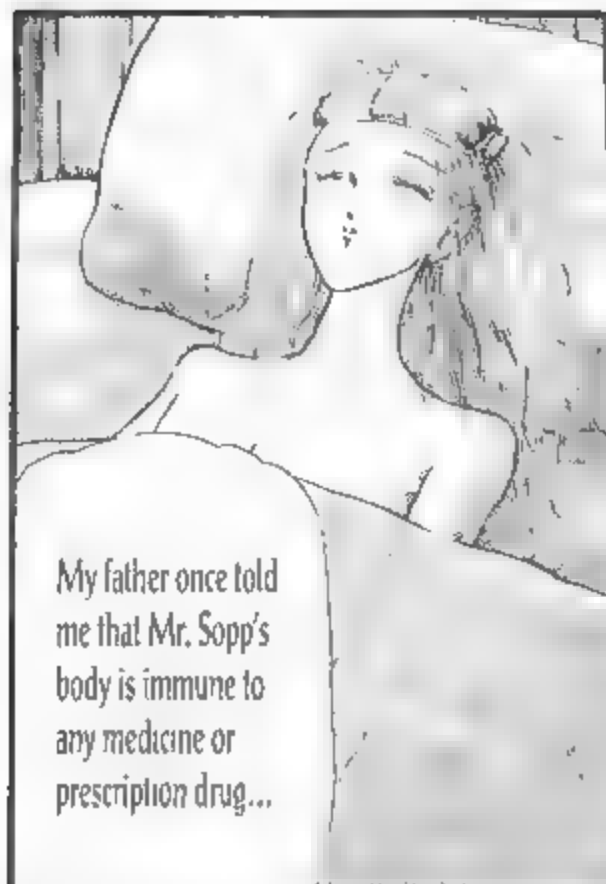


It's gone...



It's like there were
someone or
something lending
me its power...!





My father once told me that Mr. Sopp's body is immune to any medicine or prescription drug...



..And by tomorrow I'll make something to put that bottle in.

OK... Just the right hand today.



Now for Mr. Sopp...



We'll just have to leave it up to his body to heal whatever else is wrong. .

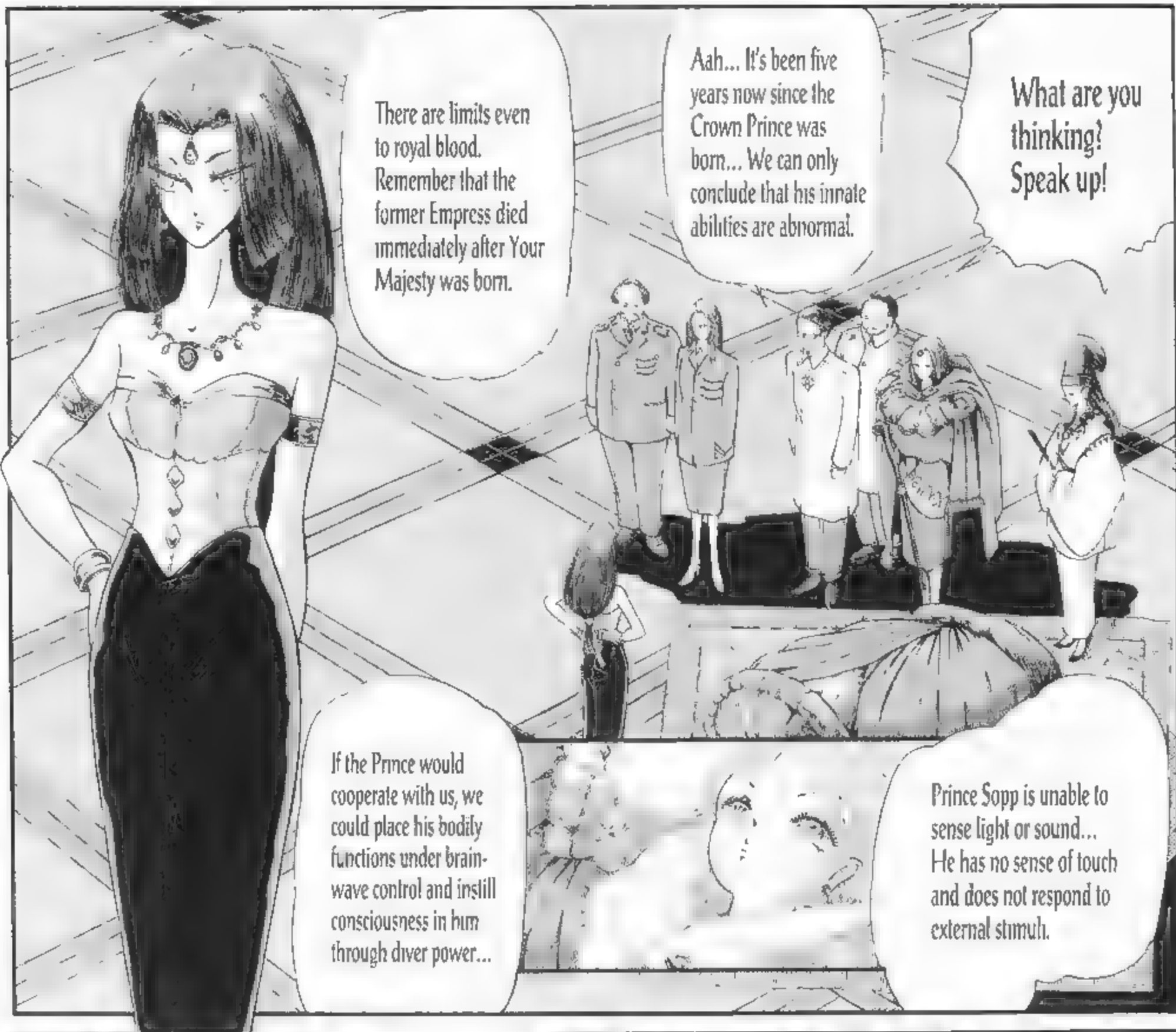


His wound is healing without any scar..



That thing over there has got me worried... but I promise to protect you with my life.

Get well soon, Mr. Sopp...



There are limits even to royal blood. Remember that the former Empress died immediately after Your Majesty was born.

Aah... It's been five years now since the Crown Prince was born... We can only conclude that his innate abilities are abnormal.

What are you thinking? Speak up!

If the Prince would cooperate with us, we could place his bodily functions under brain-wave control and instill consciousness in him through diver power...

Prince Sopp is unable to sense light or sound... He has no sense of touch and does not respond to external stimuli.

After all, he is the product of virgin birth...

...For the past five years, we have tried everything in our power scientifically, medically and supernaturally, but all has been in vain.

...However, the Prince's brain is totally void of feeling, personality and any volition whatsoever...

...stemming from the fact that the Prince has only one set of chromosomes...

We can only conclude that the problem is physical...

the successor to the Amaterasu family

Strip him of his
birthright...

Remove him
from the line of
succession, right?

I know what
you're saying.

I am afraid that
such an heir to
the throne...

This child with
no clear gender...

What do you know
Sex changes from
"Dis" to "Mel" several
times a year...

Just bury him
in darkness, it
that it?

Who can't
move, think
or even feel.

A child without a mind
is no less than a puppet!
Consider the future of
the imperial family!

Your Majesty! Please
understand that the
Prince has a body with
no mental capacity.

...a mannequin!!

A mannequin!
How dare you
call the child
I have borne...

What are
you babbling
about, fool-
ish man!



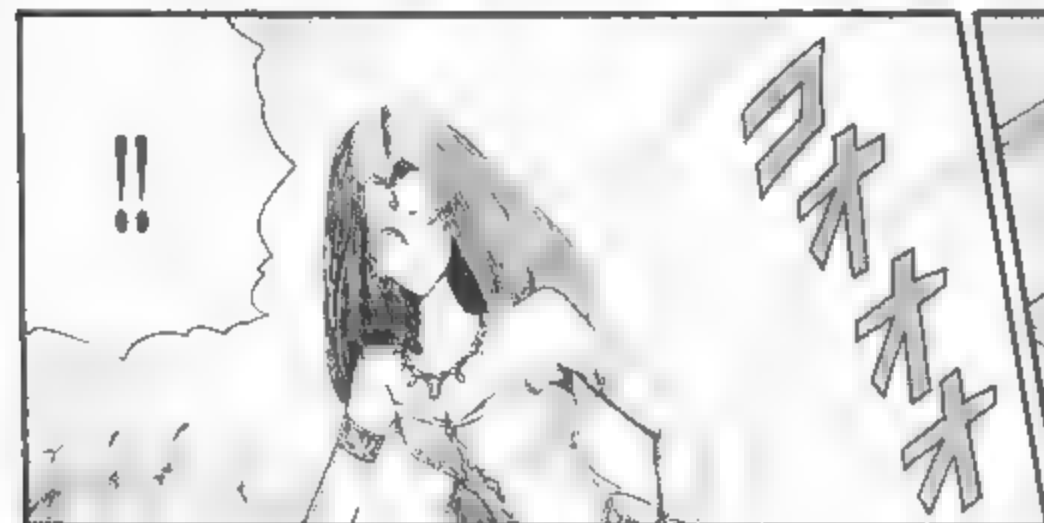
...I'll call the Devil
from Hell and have
him tear out every
viscera in your body!

If I ever hear
you say that
word again...

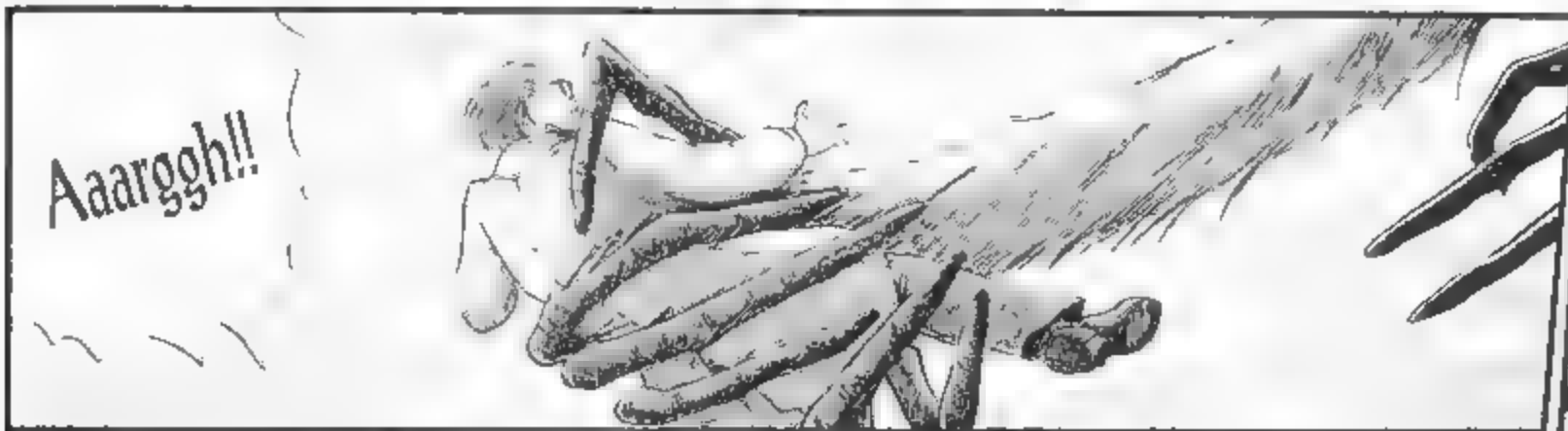
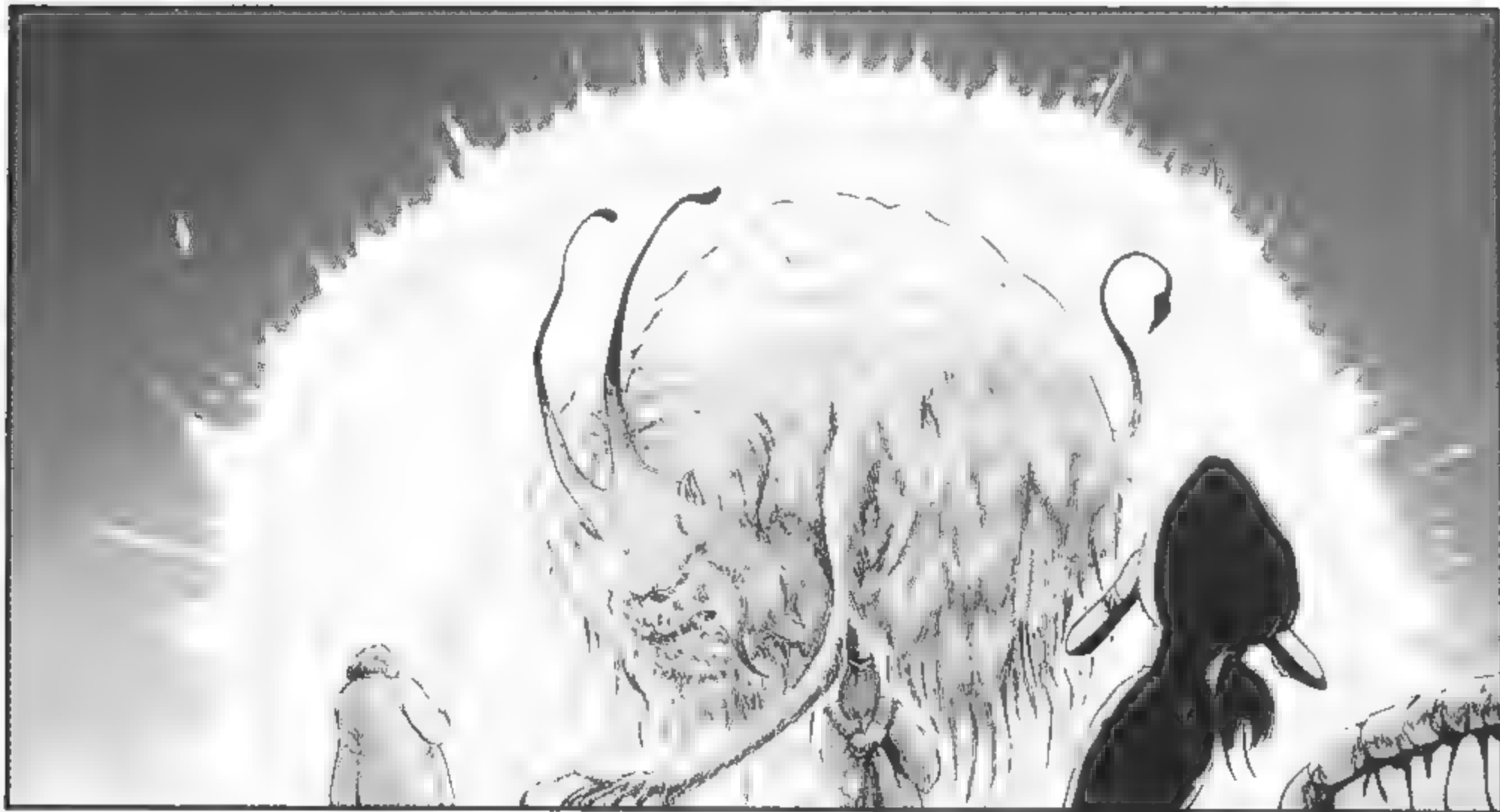


Oh my god...
What's
happening!!

Your
Majesty....!



Please...
calm yourself!



Aaarggh!!



What is that?!



Nooo!



Your Majesty...!

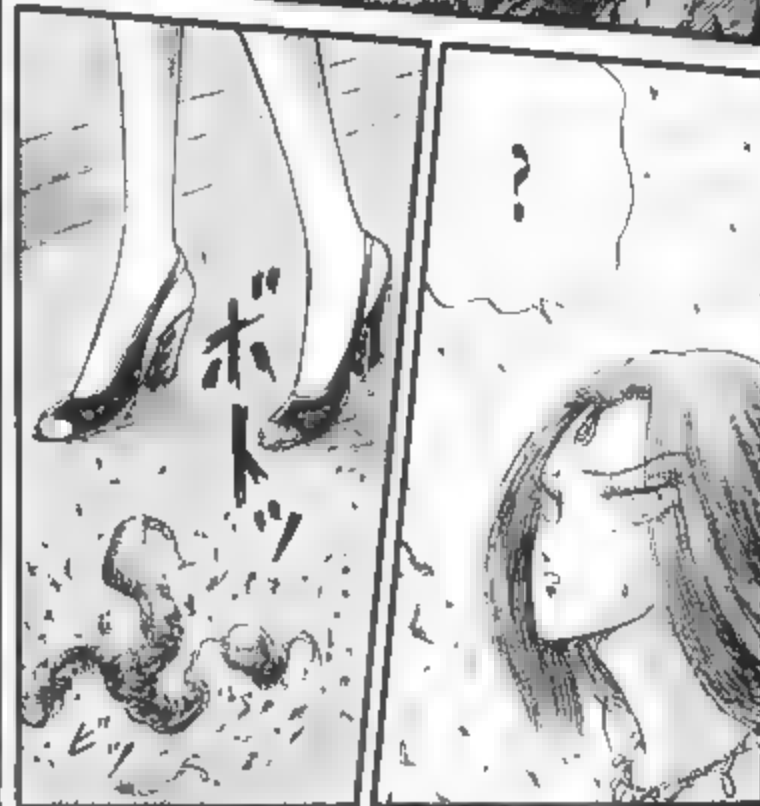
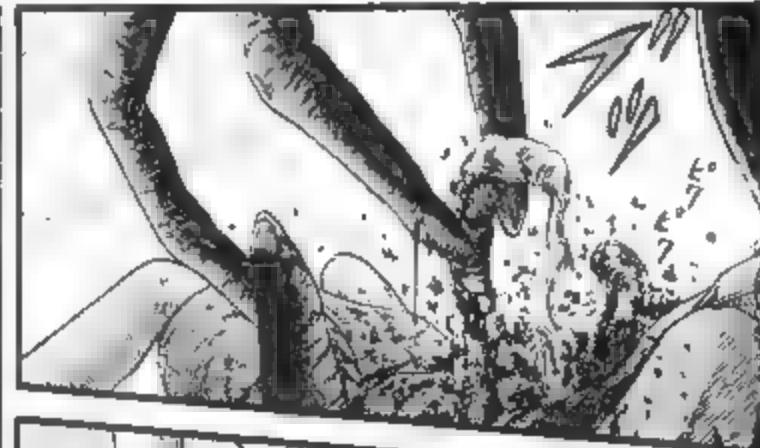




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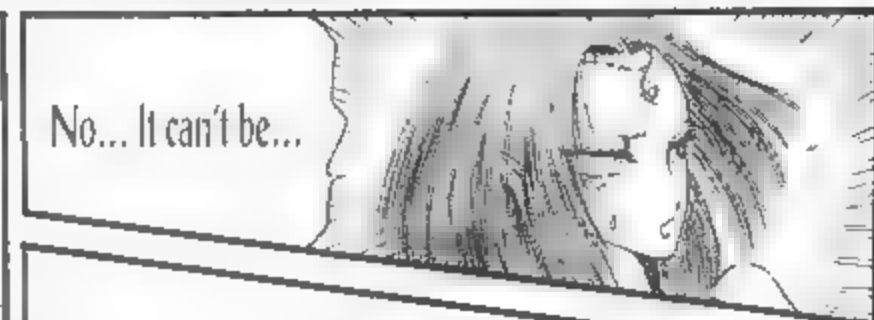


Eeeekk!



Noooo!!

Your Majesty...
Help us!!



No... It can't be...





Be gone, you monster.

Impossible... He couldn't summon such a monster from another world!

No... It can't be... him.

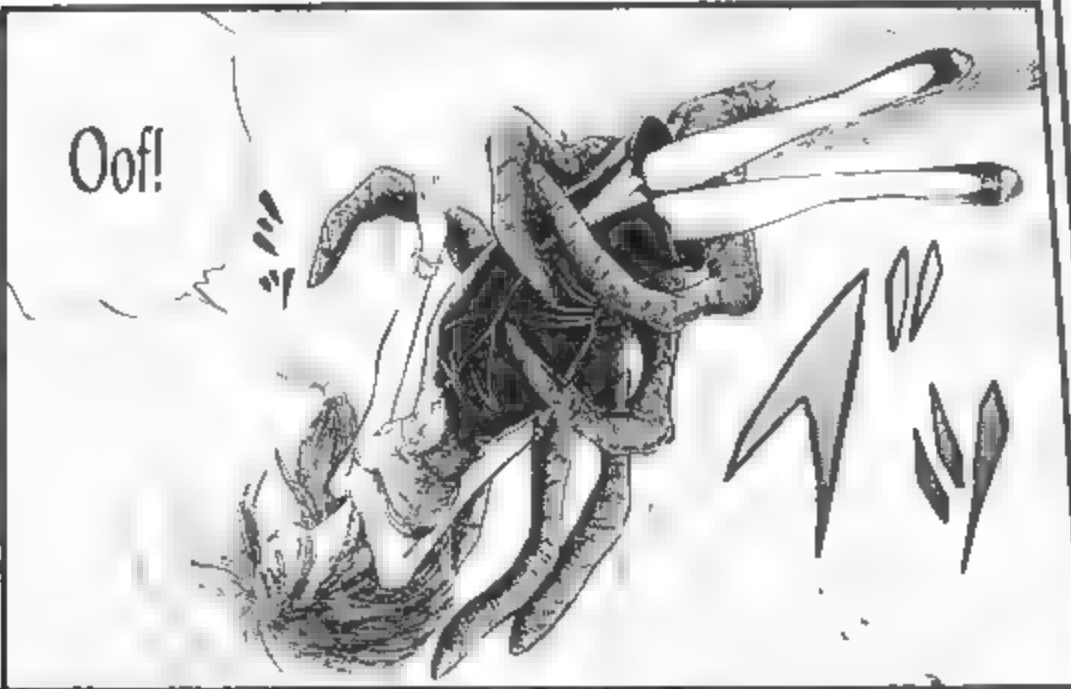


Noth ng works . !



How could you read my thoughts and...?

Sopp!



Oof!



...then go after...

Are you going to devour me, too...

I don't want to
die and leave
Sopp behind!

...Sopp?

Ma...

Ma...

...ma...

...ma...

Ma...

Ma...

...ma...

...ma...

...calling your
mother... Is
that your voice?!

Sopp!!
Is that you...

Sopp! Can you hear me!?

.. ma..

Ma

Can't you control your powers! Don't you understand what's happening?

Don't make me sacrifice this body... Use all my supernatural powers, give up my life and use the forbidden art of displacement to transport myself into another person's body

Please do something! Get this thing off of me!

For the first time... that voice... "Mama"... "Mama"...

Ma

ma

Ma...

ma

Are we in another world?

Isn't an one outlier

Something else is strange... Why hasn't anyone heard the racket and come to our rescue?

If you get rid of this thing... I will give you my own life and blood!

Anyone... Be you god or devil! I promise...





The Four
Great Fairies!

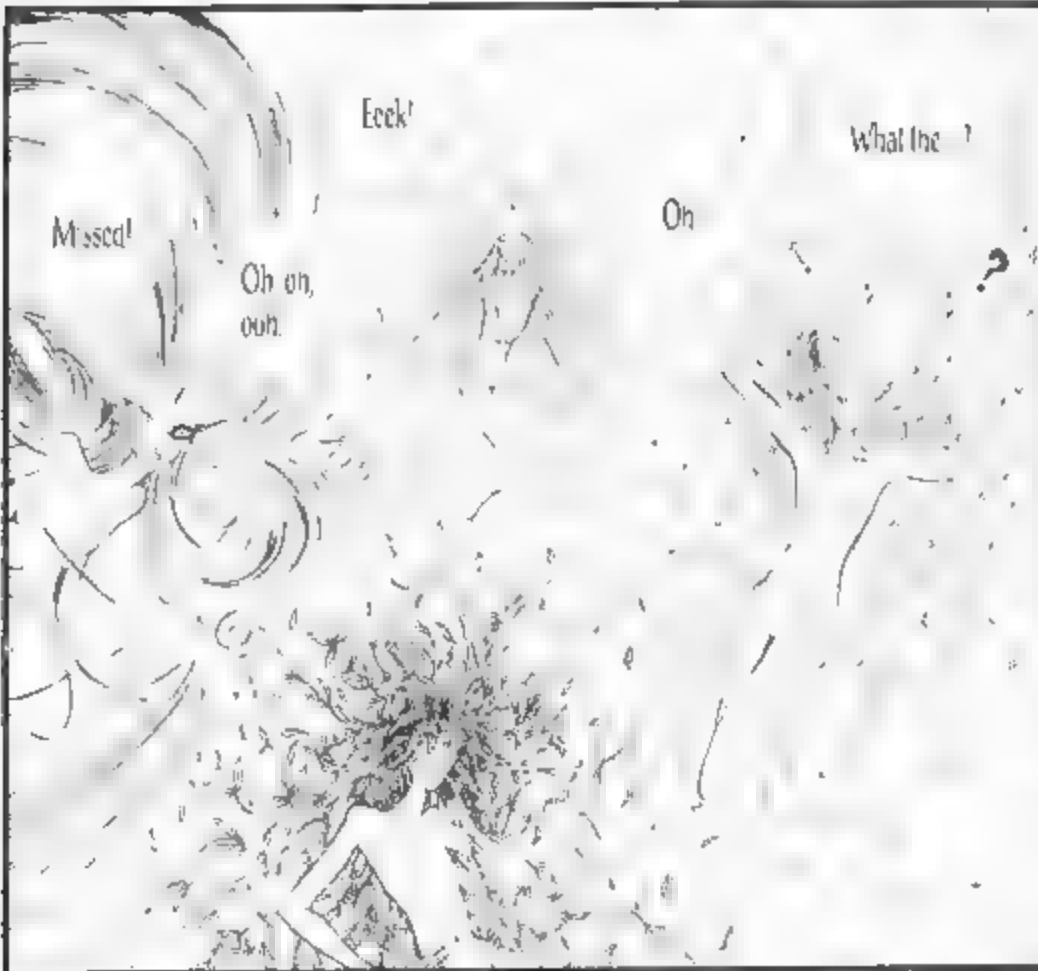


Her for sure!!

It's her
alright.

What is it?

It's that
thing, huh.



Eek!

What the ?

Oh

Missed!

Oh on,
on.



*Not quite yet,
my pretty little
handmaidens!*

Huh?

Huh?



I really
hate you!

I hate you!

I won't
help you
out!

I won't
help you
out!

I'm
leaving
right now!



Here goes!

Geron-
mooo!

Can't be
helped!

Nope,
can't be
helped!





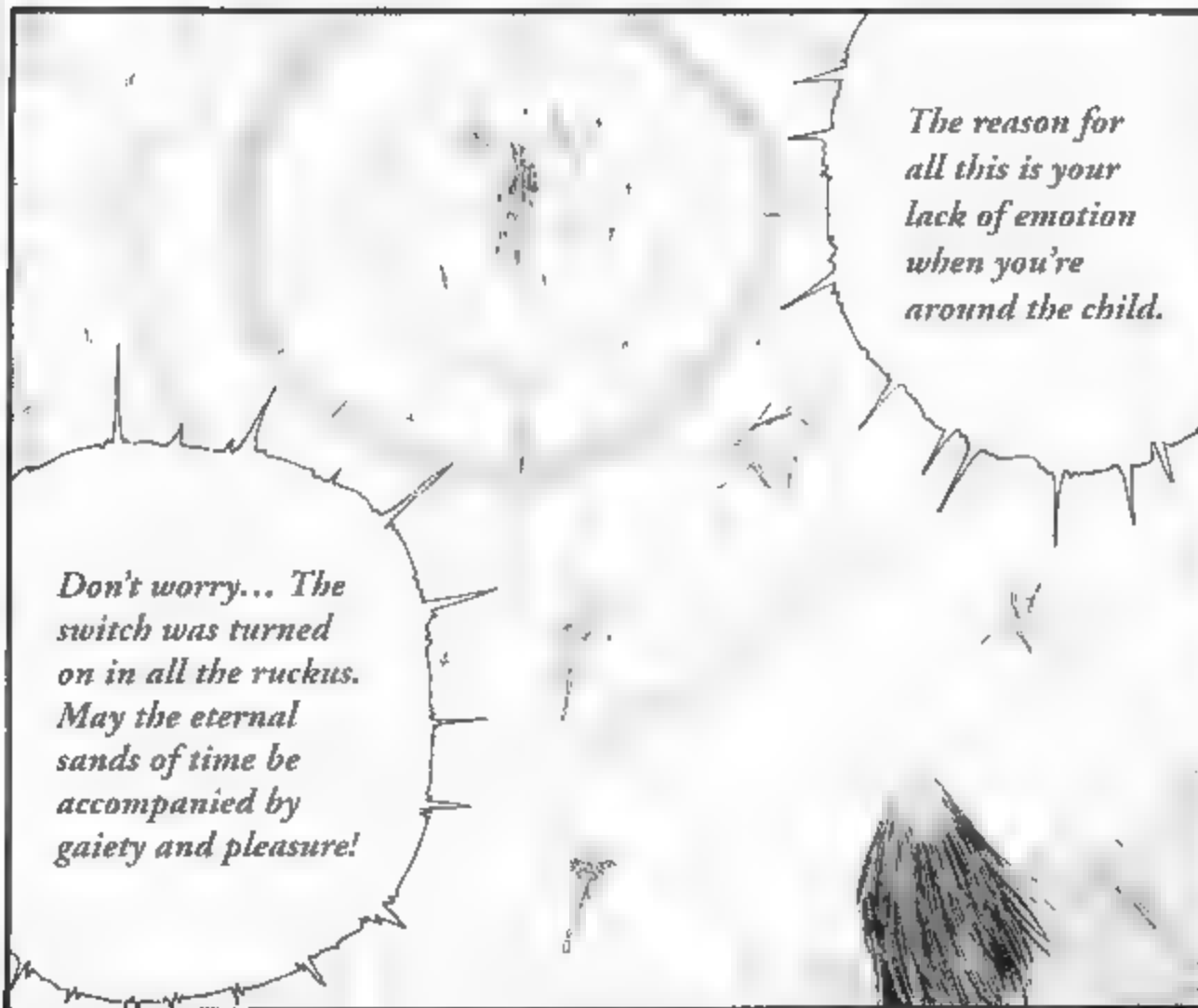
No...

Lucifer?



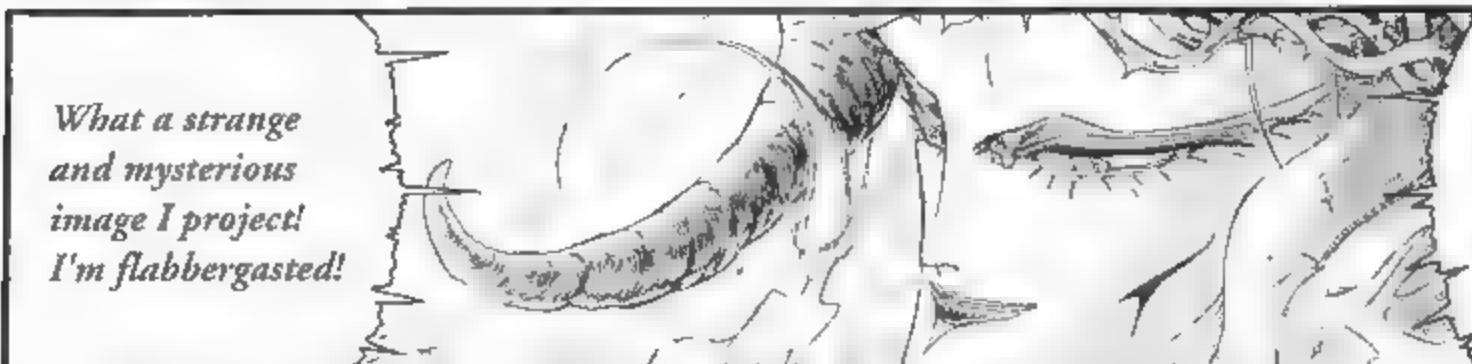
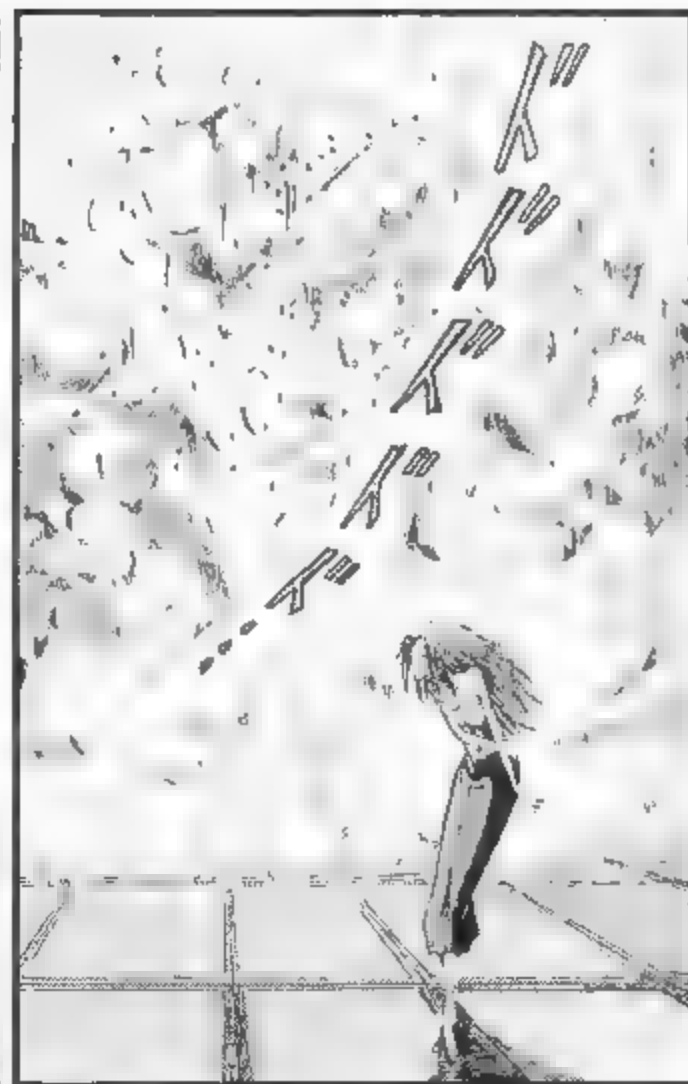
JOKER!!





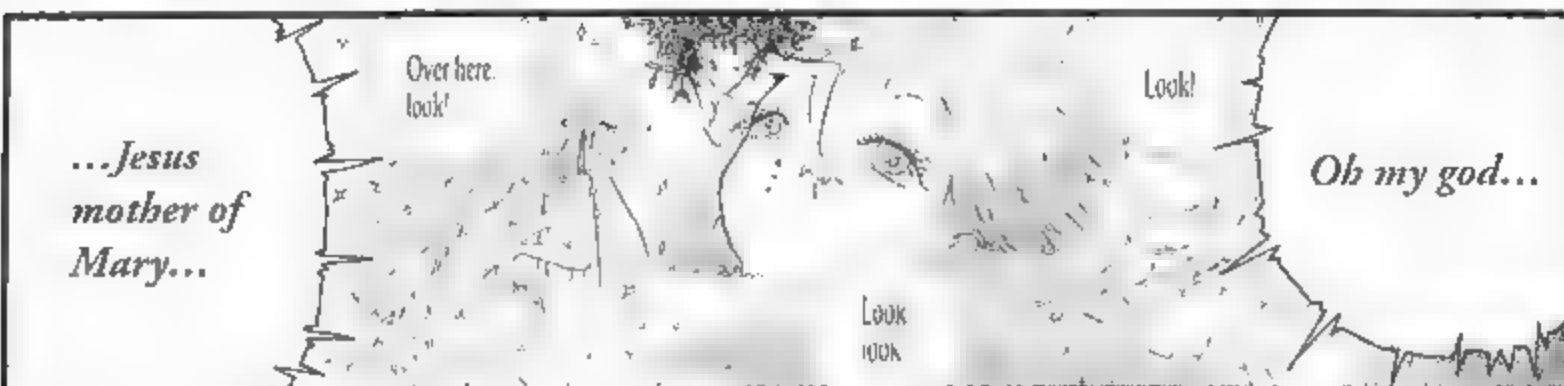
*The reason for
all this is your
lack of emotion
when you're
around the child.*

*Don't worry... The
switch was turned
on in all the ruckus.
May the eternal
sands of time be
accompanied by
gaiety and pleasure!*



*What a strange
and mysterious
image I project!
I'm flabbergasted!*

*What? What-what? What
is this? You can see me? Of
all the... I'm not supposed
to have a body. Wow!
This is what I look like?*



*...Jesus
mother of
Mary...*

*Over here,
look!*

Look!

Oh my god...

*Look
look*



*Sorry there,
buckaroo...
A thousand
pardons...
Really!*

*I wanna
go home!*

*This kid's
kinda weird,
don'tcha think?*

*Jeez, kid...
Sorry about
turnin' your
buddy there into
a pile of ashes!*

*Let's go.
Let's go.*

*This is
sooooo
boring!*

*Eeek!
la-ha-ha*

*This is what he
looks like when
he's mad.*



*Now what
do we have
here!*

Oh beautiful lady! Thank you so much for creating this form for me... making this image!

Yipee!

Hooray!

Oh boy!

Alright, already... We're goin'... We're goin'...

How in heaven's name did I get here in 3-dimensional space?

...? ... Wha... What am I doing here...

And... that infant mammal... what on earth...

Did I intentionally come here to switch him on? Me... the Galaxy's exalted one...

The child's powers

Bye-bye

The child's powers


...should not be

used here

Sayonara

Bye-bye

Time! Return



*We must witness!!
We must go!! The
body that woman
made for me is for
that very purpose!!*

*Now we must
part for a while,
my little hand
maidens.*

*!! Is there one
more...? Yes,
one more
system!!*

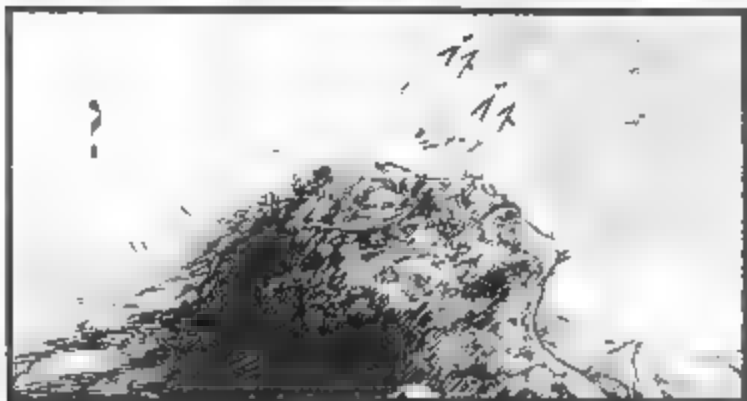
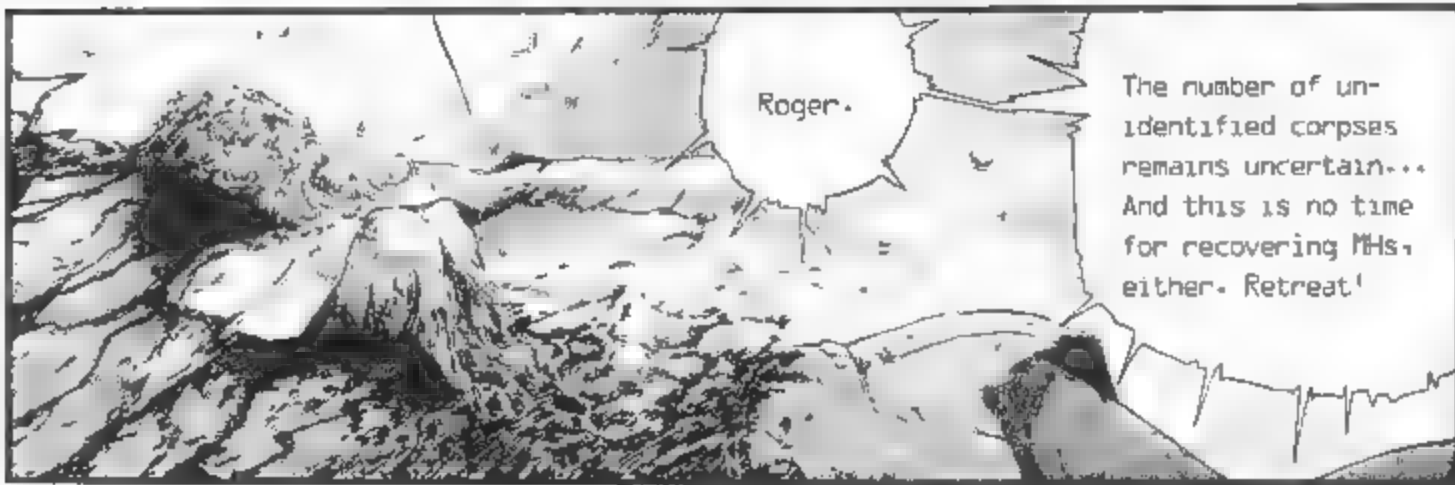
*A thousand years
from now!! At that
time? In the year
2...9...8...8!*

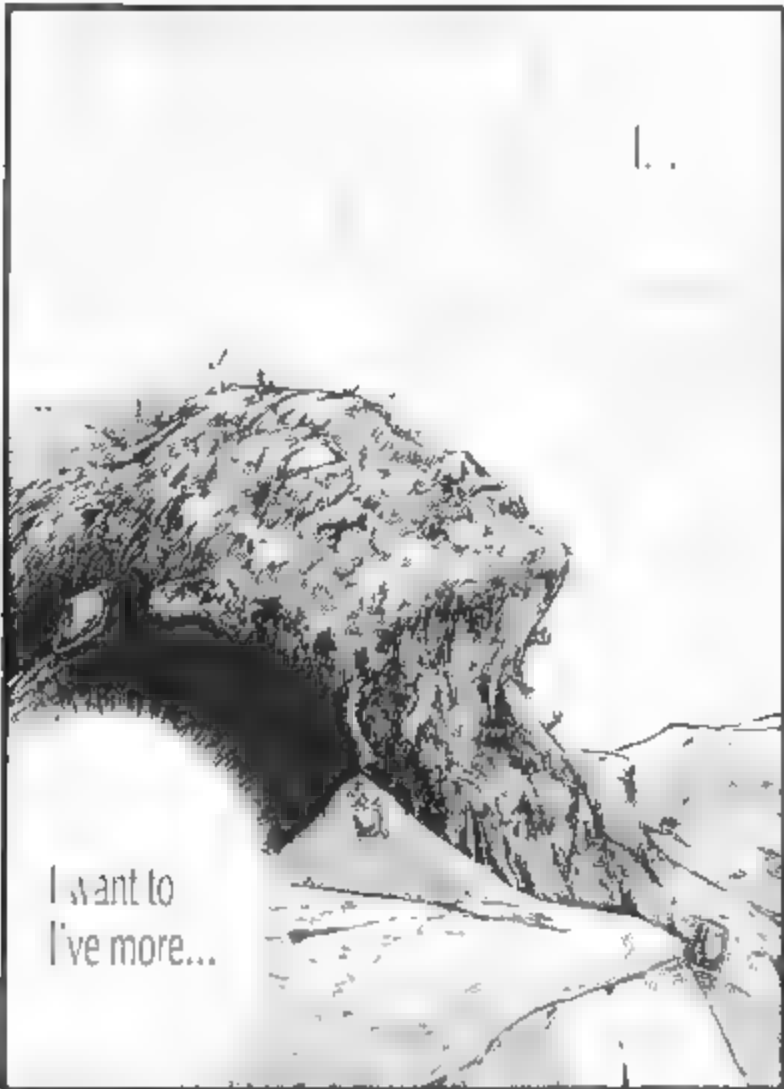
Here?!

*I, who control the
whole Universe...
There can be only one
reason... That child...
he created... me!*

*My creator!! The
program that he
had brought here
into this era of
time and space...*

*...installed
in me!?*





I..

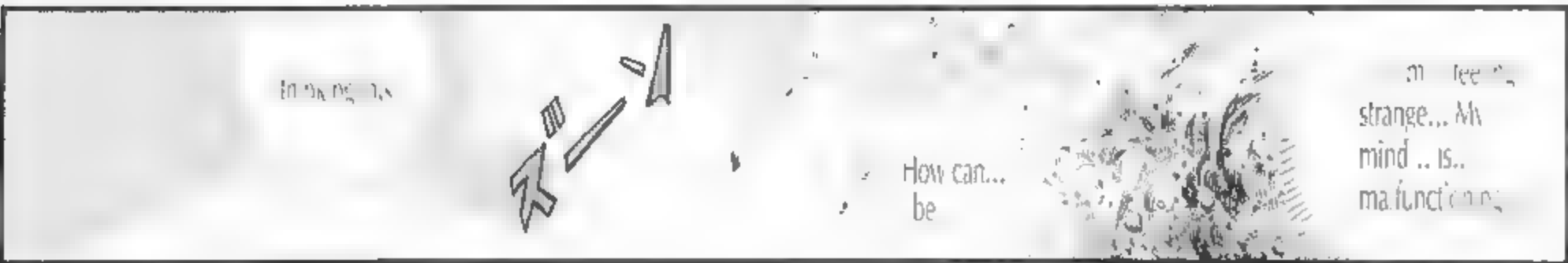
I want to
live more...



You're joking
There is .. no way
anyone could...
revive me.
impossible...

Come
a moment..
to gather my
thoughts...

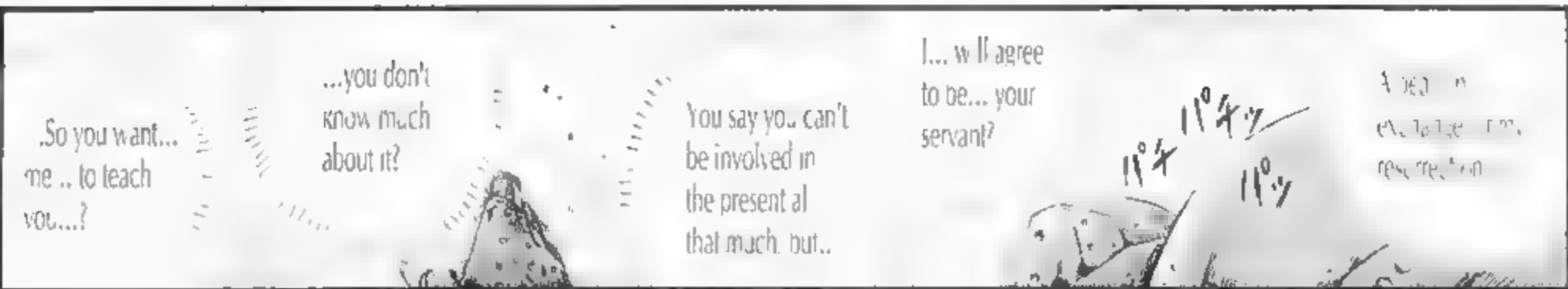
Wait a minute
Let me think
here... for a
moment



Thinking...

How can...
be

...feeling
strange... My
mind .. is..
malfunctioning



So you want...
me .. to teach
you...?

...you don't
know much
about it?

You say you can't
be involved in
the present at
that much, but..

I... will agree
to be... your
servant?

A deal in
exchange for my
resurrection



My name is Potar...
What's yours?

I... I'm...

there
should... be
no problem
there...

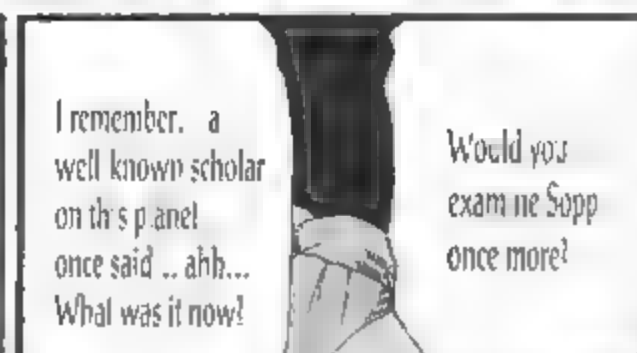
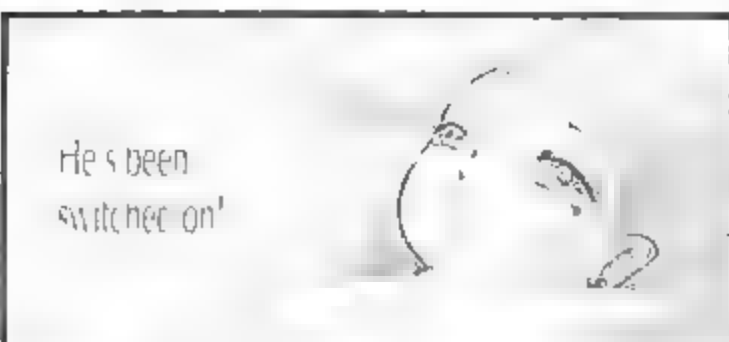
Okay... I've always
been someone who
save anyway...

I, too, have no connection to this world... I merely look down upon it from above .. like a clown... like a fairy... a ghost...

Earth, wind, fire... even water... they have chosen not to become involved with any living thing in this world... After all, life just rocks back and forth in it...

I'm Joker... the controller of the Universe... and therefore its observer...





I have no other interest but my research. I am ready to do everything in my power to help

There is no need to worry about me.

We had no other alternative but to summon you, the Galaxy's foremost scholar... Please understand our difficult situation and do whatever you can.

You've come such a long way... We are deeply indebted to you.

The Prince!

I can't believe it!

Your Majesty! The Prince moved on his own volition!

It's nothing short of a miracle!



He has responded to almost every semantic problem I have posed.

He possesses a rather large body of knowledge pertaining not only to the political affairs of Grees, but also current events throughout the Galaxy.

Let me say, first of all, that the Prince retains a memory of everything that has happened over the five years since his birth, and therefore remembers everything Your Majesty has said to and done for him.

Despite the fact that he already possesses a fount of knowledge far beyond the normal mind, he still does not "understand" what he knows...

カリッ。

However, the Prince's brain functions in a way somewhat different from what we are accustomed to calling "intelligence."

The problem is whether or not we can create a multi-display on the scale of nerves to make the data react in the cerebrum.

The ions that flow through our bodies and synapses. It may be possible to utilize weak pulses, like static electricity, to produce artificial data processing cells.

He needs to learn how humans behave, what they think about... In other words, we need to give him a huge list of instructions to follow.

The problem is how to teach to him such things still mysterious to him as the basic emotions of pleasure, anger, sadness and joy, desire, ambition and curiosity.

For example... I don't mean to upset you, but...

Like the fact that he and your research have aspects in common.

Rather it's a question of raising the ability of organic cells to the level of high speed data processing.



Heavens no! The human nervous system could never withstand the processing speeds required for that.

In other words, computerize a human being!

...haven't you, Sir Uranium Balance?



Hmmm... Then you've no doubt considered utilizing the reaction speed enjoyed by headliners.

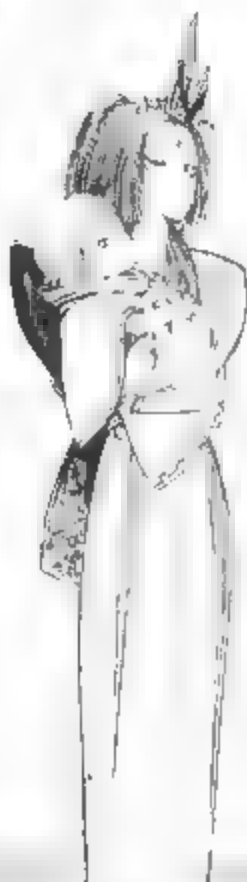


"Falimas"...

The people of ancient times referred to "fa'nes"... The intellectual* has called them homunculus. I call them.

What I'm suggesting is the creation of life forms exceeding human intelligence, physical strength, physique and life expectancy... research about which has been outlawed

It's only theory however that hopefully one of my grandchildren will be able to put into practice



I will spend the rest
of my life protecting
you, but I can't live
forever...

Please forgive
me... I had
no idea.

Sopp .

My body... It seems that
it has aged considerably
due that other world
experience.

..may have
been an
apparition
of me!

That
monster...
it...

You... You have
been borne by me
into this world...
Never forget that...

I can't imagine how
you will grow and
develop... But
listen to me, Sopp..

In the
next life...

キイイイイイイイイ...

Okay! Ten hours to completion. Good work! We owe the whole maintenance crew a drink!

Undulation reading normal! No interference with the ethereal zero envelope .. All systems go!

Panning balance adjustment completed! Passing through at a pre-generator output VCU filter reading better than expected!

Huh? You mean what we busted the other day? Right?

The new parts in the upper arm... Shall we try a brief demonstration?

Let's call it a day, Ochestro... Whaddya say! ...I'm dead tired!

I thought for a minute there we'd have to use parts from the Blue Armor... whew

Ma .. Master! We're on the air.. Everyone's listening. Be quiet and test the weapons.. What am I gonna to do with you

We took a lot of crap for that one, didn't we? To hell with it! Let's go home and fuck! Whaddya say? Huh?



Okay... Here we go! Super pivot turning shot!

Master! You're gonna break something! Eeeeeek!



900 meters out... off target... 7cm left!

Shit! You missed, jackass!



Cause of the problem detected! Stabilizer programming miss! Poor firing at longitudinal sunlight angle on this planet!

Damn maintenance crew! Bread and water till further notice!

The damn pivot must be outta whack! I never miss at that range! The crew goes on bread and water starting now! I take that promise of a drink back! Off by a micron!



I'm doing the best I can! Would you fix the monitor distortion while I'm installing the software?

You know what I'm gonna do? I'm gonna take you down to maintenance quarters and strip you bare—ass naked in front of the whole crew!

That's what I'm gonna do because you don't wear a skirt!

Anem! I am not the one responsible for the programming on the craft... That your department right, O-CHE-STRO!

.. You said everybody's listening, right!



A Vai-O-La... only three were built 600 years ago... one in the Korimals series...

They've just been in the air too long, that's all.



A thousand pardons. They have no respect for regulations.

What a rack... uh... Quite a common going on out there!



The Bybroth piloted by President Miss on Rouath, isn't that right, General Piper?

Anyway... there are still two left... What a design! There's one more model.



Don't worry. We have my Zakker and another machine here, making a total of six craft... That's more than enough.

The other half of the squadron is tied up in the Zarm Lant conflict...

I'm sorry for the poor showing. .



Lad os Sopp... He would have had the whole fleet shipshape by now.

You know... at times I like this... I wish we had a meister like the legendary..



There may still be some maintenance problems with Ian's Va-O-La..

Everybody's working the r butts off, sir... The other three craft should be ready today or tomorrow.



Fine. Anything else, Colonel Maessen?

Sir! We're ready to unload the Blue Armor.

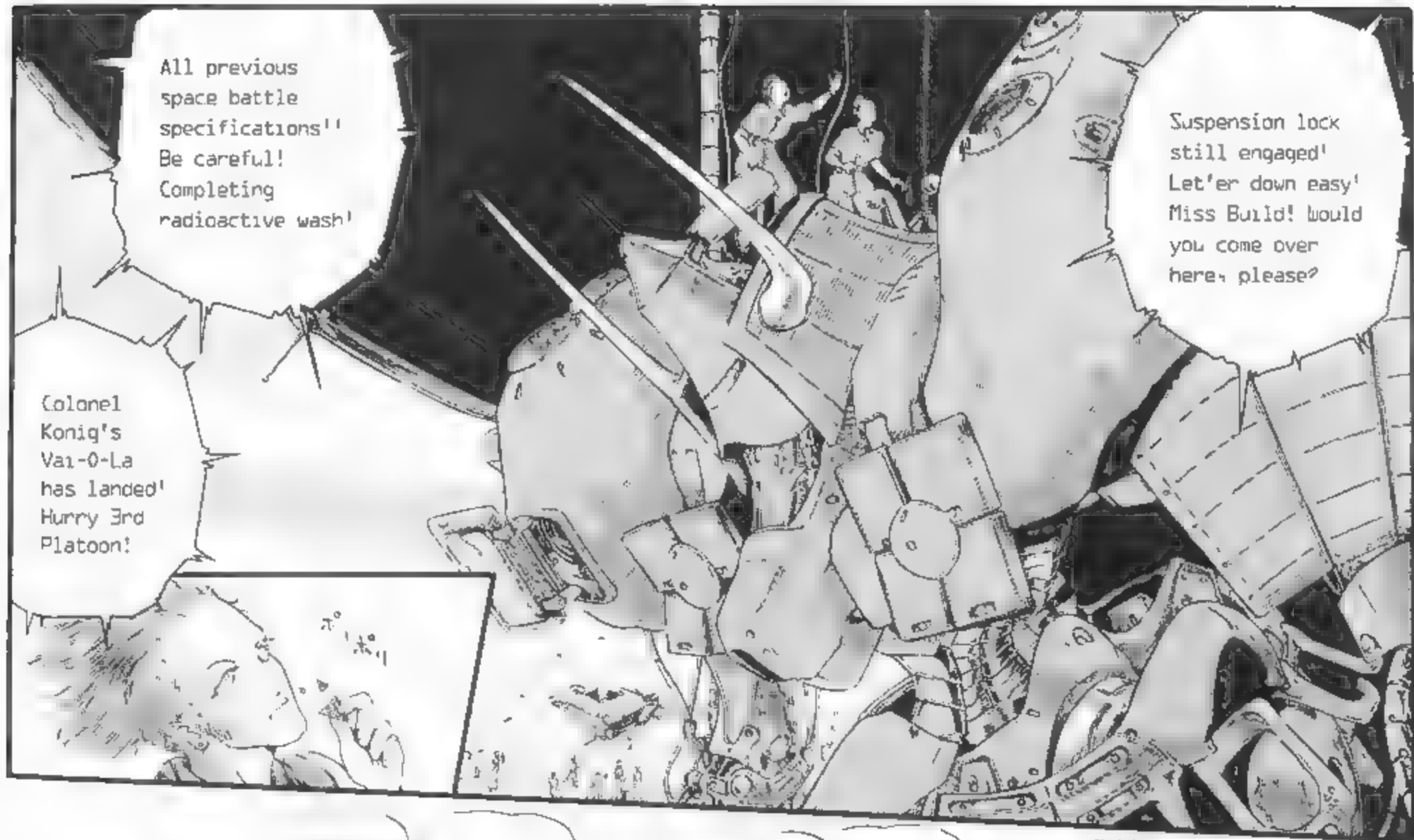


すか

All previous
space battle
specifications!!
Be careful!
Completing
radioactive wash!

Colonel
Konig's
Vai-0-La
has landed!
Hurry 3rd
Platoon!

Suspension lock
still engaged!
Let'er down easy!
Miss Build! Would
you come over
here, please?



They are next
with going
south... Kibadub
etc. man.

I'm so bored..
Tired of the
club scene..

If we were
aristocracy...
we'd have
more ele-
gance for
sure

Hey Jog! You
really like those
hot TEXMEX's!

Whatever it is, it's
probably stale
leftover from the last
satellite defense
operation. One big
happy family

We fight all over
the Galaxy... A
whole squadron
is out of the
question..





Strategy and tactics are continuously changing. MHs built for speed are now being equipped with huge veils to compensate for armor deficiencies...

So now the problem lies in attaining moment-tuning between the heavier veils and the sword-wielding arm.



Very observant!

Sir Sukat... This MH... has it been renovated?

The Fillmore Srens have also recently been returned to their original heavy armor design after 200 years.



The Blue Armor! Why isn't it blue?

Ha-ha-ha! Same as the X-9's back home. We might be mercenaries... but we retain the status of an independent heavy armored attack squadron contracted by the Umoth Republic.

Why don't you take off your shoes. What a little soldier again. No shoes... an... that? That's it. Shred toes and no zarella, please.



König's a perfect match for the Vai-O-La... It's only natural that we have him on the team.

Best man for the job...

But I can't help but saying, General... That's some headliner you commissioned.



It's no easy task... Let me tell you...



Except for the Vai-O-La over there... which has a sword stopper on its left arm... eliminating the need for a veil...

Even if it comes down to a mortar headblast, we've at least neutralized the headliner, now haven't we?

Para-Guild Headquarters seems to have gotten wind of it... I sense activity there... Damn!

We're in a hurry here, Sukat... How're we going to handle this?

There is a village to the east of here... I'll get Braford right on it, Your Excellency...

Yes, indeed. The women and the animal.

I think it's the best way to use his talents...

The regular troops have no feel for this area... and the women is a headliner..

Tell Braford to get that "phosphorescent bottle" the animal is carrying... Then we will have rid of it

It seems the "Ruler" has already taken his leave.

So that's Braford, huh?

He doesn't want any casualties caused among the ranks by some outlaw headliner

D'ya hear that? The infantry's ordered to standby. Thank God for Sukat.

We're lucky to have a guy like that in command who knows what war is all about.

After you're finished with your duties here, why don't you join up with us? What do you say? A headliner on his own... Quite a task wouldn't you say?



No need for introductions, young man. I've heard about you... I'm glad to finally have had the pleasure.

Good morning, General Piper... My name is Allen Bradford.

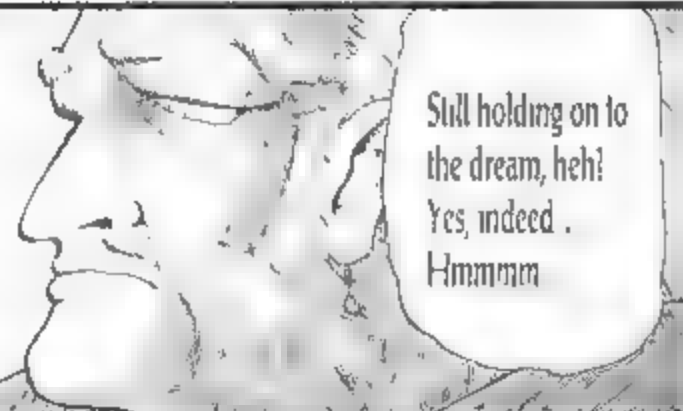
You two are up bright and early!

...but I'm no.



You flatter me, General...

You know... That's what happens to the likes of us. We have everything and only think about ourselves.

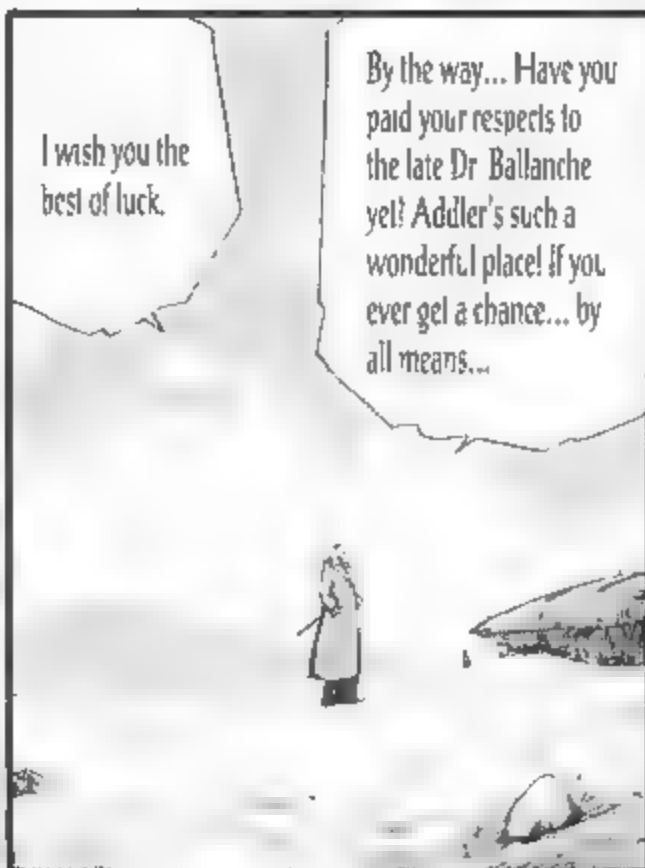


Still holding on to the dream, heh! Yes, indeed. Hmmm



I wish you the best of luck.

By the way... Have you paid your respects to the late Dr. Ballanche yet? Addler's such a wonderful place! If you ever get a chance... by all means...



To be honest though... Don't you think it's time that your talents be taken more seriously?



Forgive me... I was only thinking about your career. Forget that I mentioned it.

Fatimas like Dr. Cork's Puula, Dr. Zine's Ochestra and Dr. Epos Wilma. Wew



All of his men are aces... Cols. Bit Maessen, Jog Kersher, and Ian König... all super elite with doctorates...

What a man. No wonder the best headliners flock to him!

Oh yeah,
I forgot...

Dr. Morard's
Bella Est's
younger sister

I'm going to
transmit our
parameters to the
other two ships!

Master, it's
time to tune
the cockpit...

Be right up!

ゴォッ

ビュン ビュン ビュン

ボッ

They've got a wounded woman there... No way they could move on yet.

ゴオオオオオオオ
VoG VoG VoG VoG

We'll stop the ship 10km from the settlement and I'll go take a look-see. We don't want the engine noise to arouse any suspicion.

Have some breakfast

made - sandwich
from the
kitchen

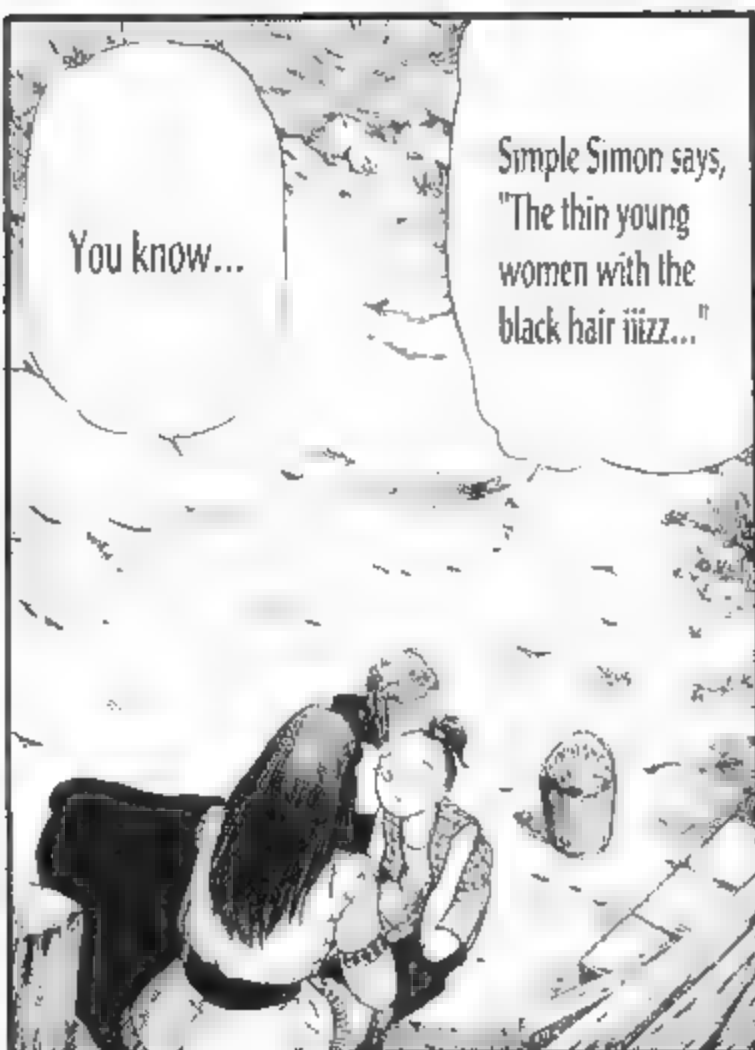
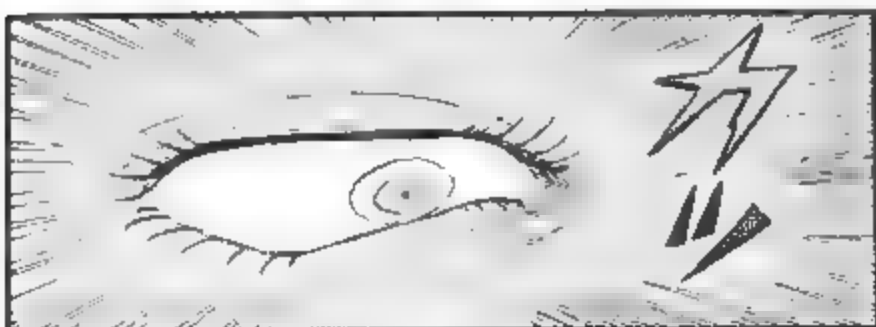
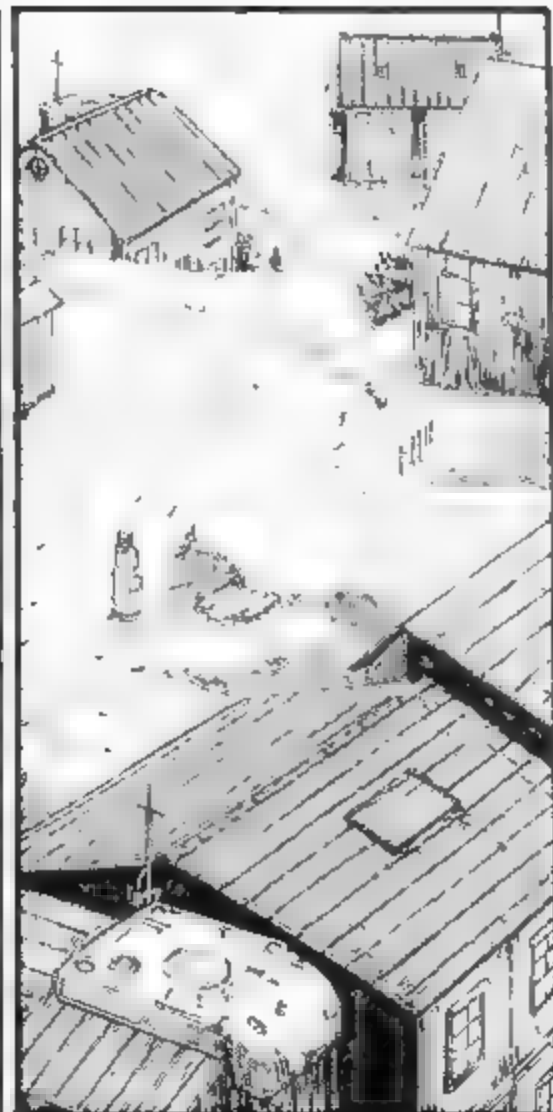
I'm sorry about turning down General Piper's offer. I could have put us on easy street.

Whew! We made it through the first night without any trouble.

It's such an honor to have been just recruited... I'm so proud!

I've got to get Mr Sopp and that... thing... out of here as soon as possible.

Forget it. We could be arrested under Galaxy law for a Fatima for doing that.



She teaches us ..
She's our teacher...

She... works
with... com-
puters... And
three times...
a week...

No... but Miss
A.T.'s hair is
black...

By herself . Except
for... Piggee and
Mimie . They're
camels...

Yeah... in that
old building
over there...

Where's Miss A.T.
now? Does she
live by herself?

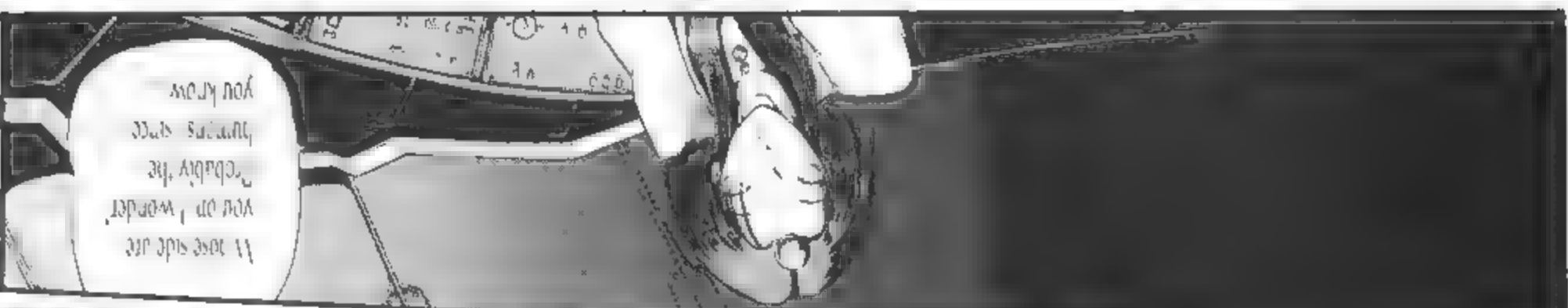
Wow . Look
what I found!

Huh .

She's the ner's greatest
masterpiece . Her
overall tal ma rating
might be even higher
than the tenon's 3A..

How am I going to
adjust the power
differential to deal with
the likes of Atropos..

Tsk!



It rose side are
you on wonder
probably he
turns space
you know



Not so
lumpy
solved me.

You worry
about the
lost things



There are in the
we have to go
to battle with the
sides to all the
scenery

Be sure
must be such a
plan

Large



It's



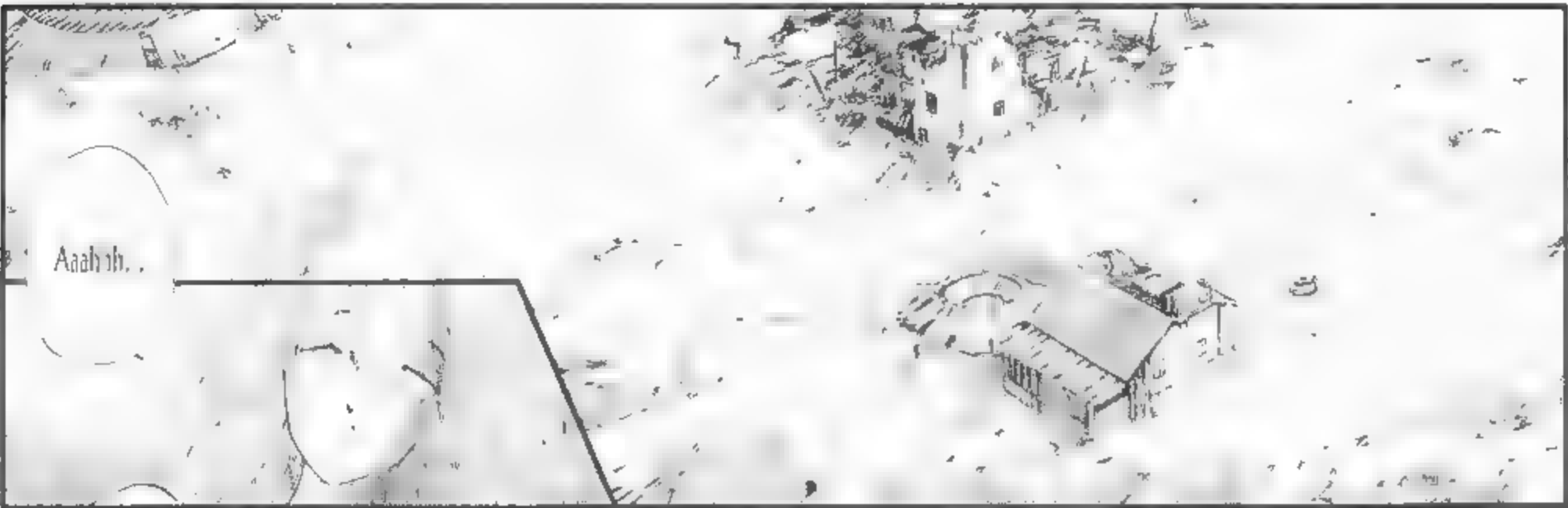
Need my
be. I would
stand a little
and her

our expected
data compared to
level is 25



But master no
see my for it
He never was

If her could not
not one be my master
and her All I is equal
stronger the Aque



Aaahhh...



My powers...
still haven't
returned...



Back into
masculine form,
it seems.

Soap!



Wah.



I'll find you
something
to wear.



I'm glad to see
you've regained
consciousness...



Atropos...

You saved
my life...

.. know..

...did
you...

How...

Being my beloved
Mr. Sopp... I knew
I'd just end up
getting all mushy ..
and stuff

I didn't
want to say
anything

..size...

Still not the
right...

It's that pack of scoundrels
on the Mirage left wing.
They've probably sensed my
weakness... and if Sartor
starts causing trouble, there's
no one there able to stop it.

Oh, here any weakening of my
powers doesn't matter much.
But what about the Floating
Temple? I think my mother
and the others can keep the
seals in tact.

Okay,
Sartor... I get
it. You're sure
from now on.

You mean Di-Barrow,
the sorcerer?

I just remembered! Those
troops were calling their
commander "Barrow" or
something. Could he be
that guy from Seabie?

He's after the Water of Life!
He wants to gain control
over the Para-Guild... like...!

Tsk! Someone like Barrow would
be sure to pick up on what's
happened... the Dragon's demise
and all the implications...

...and there're
no Mirages ready
to be deployed
from there!

I can't
contact the
AKD...

The woman's
Atropos... and the
guy's probably the
one the troops were
talking about.

As I expected...
the animal's a
dragon nymph...

Eaches should
have everything
under control at
the palace.

Ana

Don't get me wrong,
besides hearing the
news, I'm not saying
anything about
AKD intervention.



It must be in that bag.
Maybe I should just
grab it and the nymph
while they still don't
suspect anything. .

Nobody around
who can sense
my presence



Heh. What
do you mean
"What do
you mean?"



What do
you mean?



That's the headd-
liner I killed the
other day! What's
goin' here?

What the....!!
It can't be!



Shit!



The security
scanner!
Somebody's
out there!



He died
instantly! I'm
sure of it!



We'll use this
underground
passage

Mr. Sopp climb
down here! We
can't go out there!

To be continued....



Yury Vasyuchenko

Lieutenant Yuri Vasyuchenko is a member of an elite club known as the "Knights" in the Tank Training Regiment. As the most heavily armed element, they also play a major role in the Knight's cross around this week.

Miss Space Force

She is Ensign Elena Kurogova, squad leader in Starfleet's Communications Division. She and Jockata are going to have to sit around and twiddle their thumbs until Aisha and Alecto appear. Being a native of Radium in Delta Belus, can you guess who her boss might be?

Characters



**Farima Fates
Kyo**

A brilliant master piece of a younger sister of Sora. Farima is usually extremely polite but she has a bad temper when it comes to her brother. She is often seen under the wing of her mother, who has a very strong influence on her.



General Piper

The commander of the Country's army, General Piper is a very old man. He is known for his wisdom and his experience. He is often seen with his cane, which is a symbol of his authority. He is a very strict man, but he is also a very kind man. He is the one who has the final say in all matters of the army.



Dr. Uranium Balance

Known as the Country's most famous scientist, Dr. Uranium Balance is a man of great intellect. He is known for his discovery of the element Uranium, which has led to many advances in science. He is a very serious man, but he is also a very kind man. He is the one who has the final say in all matters of science.



Dr. Jog Kersher

Pied Piper headliner piloting a blue Armor

All three are pretty good guys and sexy
renown headliners with a great respect
for each other. Piper bordering on being a worship



Dr. Bit Maessen

Pied Piper headliner piloting a Blue Armor



Dr. Ian König

Ace headliner of the Pied Piper mercenaries
piloting the MH Var-O-La

Characters



Fatima Fates
Puula
Museum's director



Fatima Fates
Ochestro
Kor's partner



Fatima Fates
Wilma
Kor's partner



Mortar Headd

Auge Aruscul

The prototype of the kammer, built by Anaberasu, is the sister craft. Deemed as Kaen's Schpecter, in this volume, Alrebus will attempt to man the supposedly impenetrable, invincible Auge. None with a will, for Auge stands as a testament to the power of the 90-ton, 100-ton, 100-ton power converter, the 100-ton

Characters



Mortar Headd **Apache**

The Apache was created by Alien Brains and Kyo Dimplets. Her character design was based on the expertise of its crew, who turned it into a very powerful weapon.

The Five Star Stories VII



Mamoru Nagano is a storyteller, whose narrative style arose strangely enough from his background in the design of character and robot animation for television. The unique characters and mechanical devices that flow out of Mamoru's pen are always in line with the latest mode, which is why they always hit the market in such sensational fashion. His peculiar touch with the pen stems technically from a blend of traditional Japanese ink brush techniques and whatever is happening on the graphic art scene at any particular time, while compositionally his work stems from various fetishistic tendencies. The following is a chronological account of Mamoru's career.

Artist, comic writer, musician, designer, and Macintosh recluse Mamoru Nagano was born in the city of Maizuru, Kyoto Prefecture, in January 1960. In 1984 he made his animation debut as the character designer of the TV cartoon *Heavy Metal L-Gaim*. His first comic, *Fool for the City*, was published in *Newtype* magazine in 1985. It led to the *Five Star Stories* serial, which began in 1986. Five stories were completed by 2000. Then in spring 2001, *Story #6* was begun. *FSS* was first published in paperback by Kadokawa, which released 11 volumes with a total sales of 7 million copies, marking it as a popular long seller among Japanese comic fans. The author's latest work is another animated serial entitled *Brain-Powered*. Much of his work is under copyright of and being published by his own company, TOYSPRESS, Inc.

The Five Star Stories #15

in printing November 10, 2002

Written and illustrated by
Mamoru Nagano

Translated by
John Wisnom

Publisher & Editor
Ryoetsu Sato

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TOYSPRESS, INC.
1-1-1, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0001, Japan
Tel: +81-3-5043-0009

Item No. FSS-015
ISBN 4-87-5350-00-9
Printed in JAPAN by TOYSPRESS, INC., Tokyo

www.toyspress.com

A Vast Tale Promising to Straddle the Centuries

Five Star Stories Vols. I-III



It is the Joker Calendar year J.C. 2988, one of the Galaxy's most prestigious fatima meetings. Dr. Chrome Ballanche completes the work on his final two masterpieces, Lachesis and Clotho, only to have them taken into custody by the local lord, a depraved upstart merchant by the name of Grand Duke Juba Bardaim who covets the two fatimas to satisfy his out-and-sh lecheries. Ballanche has no one to turn to for help but his longtime friend Ladios Sopp, one of Amaterasu's disguises, to save his two daughters from Juba's slimy clutches. Before the debut at which the two fatimas are to choose their masters, an event rigged by Juba, Clotho makes a run for it and with the help of Sopp, Voards Viewlard, (the president of the local Trun Union in disguise) and Amaterasu's Mirage Knights, Clotho finds a protector in the warrior-king extraordinaire,

Colus III of the planet Juno. Then on the day of the debut, Sopp is reunited with Lachesis and they run off together with Juba and his headliner "nephews" Decors and Terrora in hot pursuit. Just as the two elopers are about to be captured, Amaterasu's outrageous mortar headd, the Knight of Goid appears out of nowhere and saves the day. Meanwhile back at Juba's palace, Voards, now undisguised as President Mission Roualh, makes a thorough investigation of Juba's countless wrongdoings and restores order to his troubled republic.



Five Star Stories Vols. IV-V



The year after the Juba Bardaim incident, J.C. 2989, the kingdoms ruled by Clotho's protector Colus III are suddenly and mysteriously invaded by the neighboring empire of Hagooda, which we find out later is being backed by superpowers from other planets, such as Fulmore on Kallamity and Hathuha on Both. The young Colus III boards his brand new mortar headd luncheon, for a test run out on the front lines, encounters the mortar headd of a Boowray Mercenary in the employ of Hagooda, and in the battle that ensues loses his beloved fatima Ulicul, who is killed by the Boowray knight while fighting to protect her badly wounded master. This incident stuns Colus' allies throughout the Galaxy, who rush in to join the anti-Hagooda movement that is slowly

welling up all over Juno. Among the volunteers and mercenaries flowing into the Colus Dynasty's Jarth Airport we find none other than Ladios Sopp, who owes a great debt to Colus for his gallantry at the debut held the previous year. There is also a flashback of how Colus and Ulicul first met in J.C. 2957, explaining the bitter resentment held by Vralgo Kentauri of Fulmore towards the King of the Trio de Colus and Vralgo's sworn vendetta.



Five Star Stories Vols. VI-VIII



During the war with Hagooda, the Colus Dynasty palace becomes the gathering place of dignitaries from all over the Galaxy, including Ladios Sopp (aka Amaterasu), Voards Viewlard (aka Mission Roualh), the Black Knight and master swordsman Roados Dagoon, and a meeting place for Mirage Knight Sharie Randers and Prince Trao Balanka, who will eventually marry, the rival fatimas Teala and Est, and Lachesis and her father's rival Dr. Morard. The sorely under-powered luncheon receives an overhaul with a LED Mirage engine from Sopp and is called to arms by an deeply inspired Clotho. As the anti-Hagooda movement reaches its peak, Colus decides to stage a counter-offensive, which results in victory for the Trio, but only at the cost of its

ruler's life at the hands of none other than Vralgo Kentauri. During the sudden attack on luncheon, Clotho, with her master dead in the cockpit, employs every bit of the skill and strength entrusted to her in crushing Vralgo's MH Siren, but in the end loses consciousness and is sealed within her magnificent mortar headd. Finally, Vol. VIII jumps forward to the year 4071 and the anti-Amaterasu resistance movement on the planet Adder.



Warning:

Those readers who cannot for reasons physical, psychological or otherwise endure reading comics from right to left should seriously consider not purchasing this book and return it to the shelf.

The Five Star Stories



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MAMAORI UNAGANO

The Five Star Stories

16

Written & Illustrated by
MAMORU NAGANO

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Dedicated to Fatimas Everywhere



his is a tale of the god of light, Amaterasu, and his wife Lachesis, who emerged victorious from an era of wars that raged throughout four solar systems. It will also tell of the many bold and daring headdliners who battled courageously during those times, some victorious, some not, but always in the name of chivalry.

The Five Star Stories

VII-2



he Auge, which Atropos happened to find in her father's backyard and Braford's wreck of an MH (controlled by A's sister Kyo) go at it, as the scene swings around between the Floating Temple, Aisha Codante in Zanda City (Kastenpo) heavily bandaged from burns suffered in her spiff with fellow Mirage Knight Ting, and the Schaft-Paltenon duo out in space (and spaced out). The mission to rescue Sopp has apparently gotten underway in earnest. Braford wins the battle with Atropos brilliantly, despite a dysfunctional Kyo and the awesome power of the Auge. Atropos cleverly escapes Auge's demise and takes Sopp and Suezhou into the huge complex linear accelerator under the hideout, where we find out from Atropos why Kyo went haywire. Braford fails to grab them again and Barrow gives him the third degree for it. Atropos then decides to abandon the hideout, taking Sopp and Swe to safety in a nearby marsh, as Lonn approaches with the Schpeltor, courtesy of Kaien, and a full corps of AKD infantry regulars.

That's not the point... And what's this doing here?

You've got everything under control... with so many things on your hands

What in the hell were they doing trying to accelerate molecules in a thing like this?

There was a physics laboratory here in prehistoric times. They built a 15km long circular tunnel... The inner part's 5km long

We single girls always have to prepare for the worst.

Damn thing won't budge! Sounds pretty deep from their footsteps...

A basement

!!

Aye-aye, Sire! Right away...

Kyo! Bring the Apache around... There's an underground chamber in this building



Hoist me in!
We've got an
MH out here!

ボ"ゴ"ゴ"ゴ"ゴ"ゴ"ゴ"ゴ"ゴ

I can hear
the starter!



Listen to that ringing!
There's some serious
elazer power being
generated out there!



Hah!
Sounds like an
elazer.. no..
two of em...

Tsk. The last
thing I wanted
was a fight!



This is gettin'
creepy...

...Me!

I know that
tuning... There's
only one meister
who can tune an
engine like that...



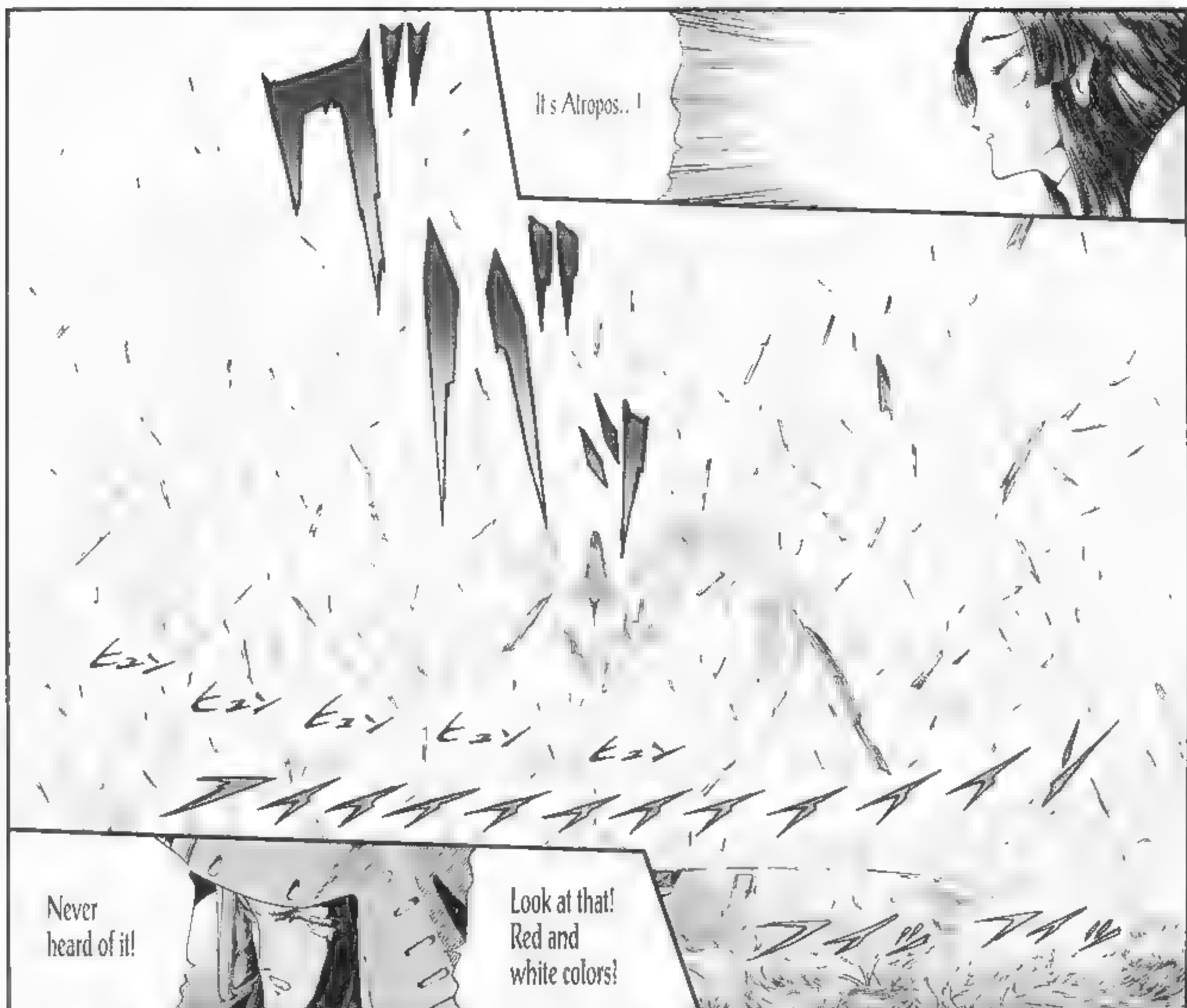
ホッ

ゴッ ゴッ ゴッ



There he is!
Over there!

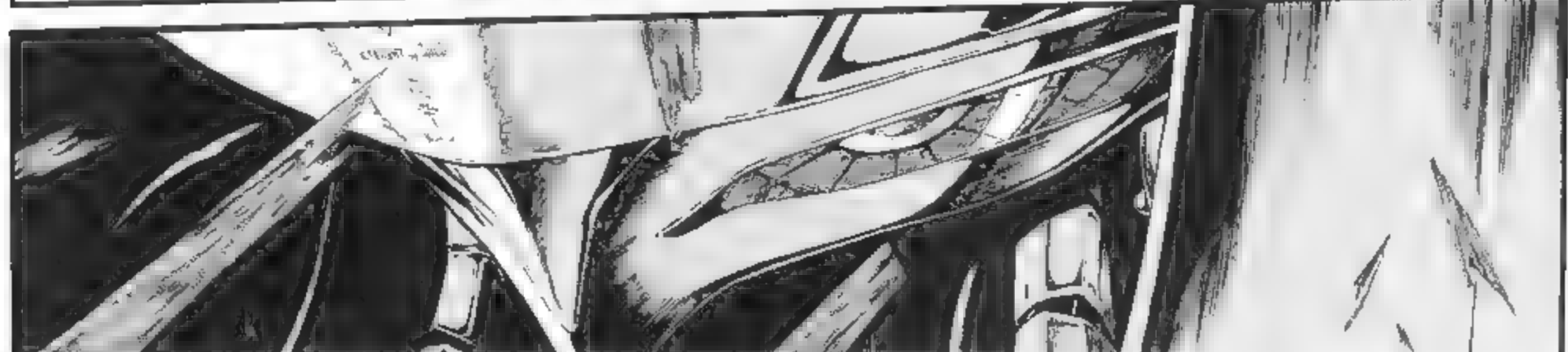
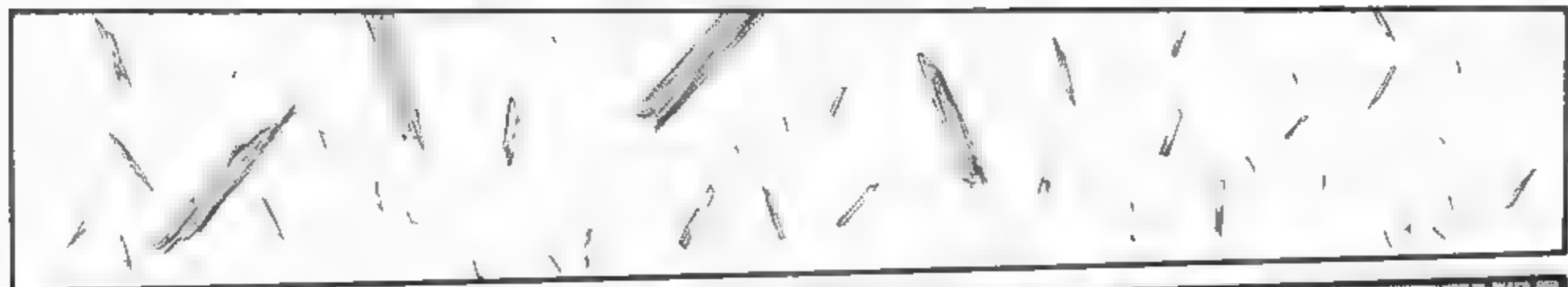




It's Atropos..!

Never
heard of it!

Look at that!
Red and
white colors!







Let's go, Auge!
Show Mr. Sopp
what you can do!



M... my Auge
Arusqu! What's
it doing here?



With my
programming ..

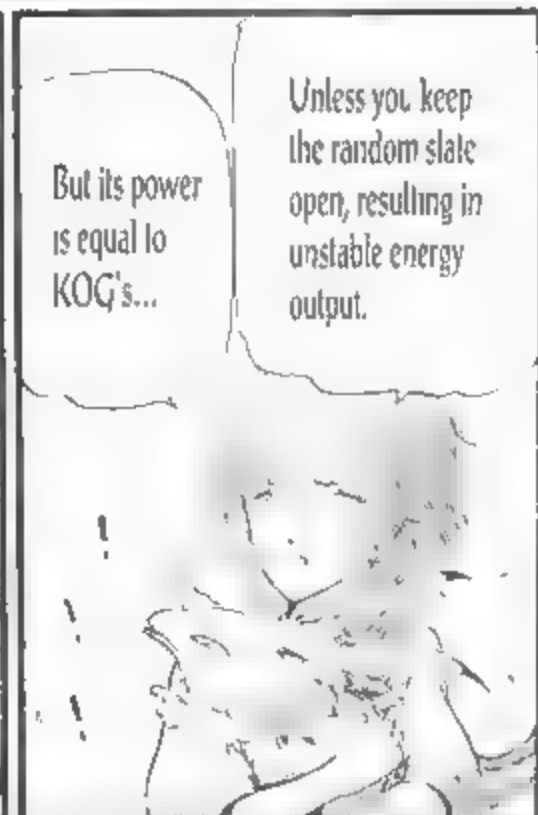


You can't man
Auge alone!

What she's
doing?



Didn't hear
a word I
said



But its power
is equal to
KOG's...

Unless you keep
the random slate
open, resulting in
unstable energy
output.



Auge!! The
prototype for the
Knight of Gold!!



Auge Aruscul..

One of the few elite Mirage Corps MHs with an ace number...

My programming isn't perfect... but maybe he can learn a thing or two from how I've tuned Auge..

Mr. Sopp's always talking about how he's going to build meritor heads that don't need a mind.

I designed two lead assault MHs for the LED Mirages.. Hahraiki's Schpeltor and Kaien's Auge...

Oh yeah... now I remember! Kaien dumped it over at Ballanche's place..

But Kaien chose to succeed Hahraiki and the Schpeltor... and the Auge was... aaah... what did happen to the Auge, by the way?

This is awful the worst thing that could have happened

You'll have to
manipulate any
adjustments
you make..

Motion sampling?
On that monster?

Master! Give me
some time to calculate
its movements.

Please trust me on this.
It's going to be rough
going for a while..

How in the hell do
you sample the power
of an MHI that's not
in the database?

I'm going to synchronize
my brain with the
Apache's CPU. The
operation may temporarily
knock us out of balance..

You know you're
gonna spook the hell
out the Apache with
this, don't you?

I'm sorry,
Master... it's our
only option...

Kyo! Are
you sure
about this?

Please forgive
me, Master!

He's going to
hate me for this...

...he'll
never trust
me again

How about that!
I just lost control
of the ship!

I'm going to have
to shut down its
thinking functions.

They just
changed
their tuning!

...for increasing instant
bursts of maximum
power. That'll start
pulsation, causing the
haddliner to lose control.
What's she up to?

That's no ordinary
fatima aboard that
ship! I wonder who
it is! She's winding
down the function
turbines...

You slack up bitch
Think you're better
than I am, huh?

That's always
why I do these
things

Program the
computer
That's your job

No Master...
I can't sit by and
let you die...

オンオンオンオン

Commencing
preemptive attack...
Returning partial
control...

What else could
happen when a
bick headliner
meets a Ballanche
masterpiece...

I'm getting a definite
feeling here that...
aah... Ma baby don't
trust me no mo ..



It's broadcasting a defense barrier...

ボゴゴゴゴ

Just bounced off the surface like the June bugs back home...

ノノノ

ノノノ

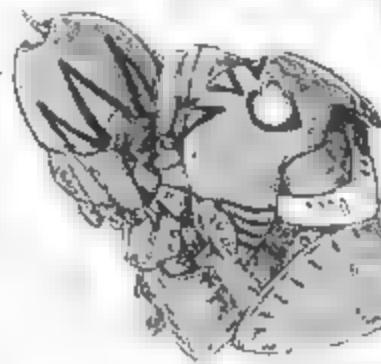
ノノノ

it's a throwback to the space warfare conducted during the A.D. age... With the superior ability of today's headliners and mortar heads to fend off the enemy, it's a rather useless piece of equipment

ゴゴゴ

ボン

...an active binder system that automatically absorbs missile and beam ordinance... everything but spears..



ボンボンボンボンボン

Oh my meee... the aaaactive binder

Why don't they charge us

Vin Vin Vin Vin

Strange opponents Are they afraid

Is all this
boring you?

ボゴゴゴゴゴ

フタ

Oh yeah, I remember...
I installed it to protect him
against molotov cocktails
and arsonists when he
was on parade...

ボフッ

ボムッ

ボッ

ボッ

ボボ ボッ

ボッ

ジュジュ ジュジュ ジュジュ

...

I'm going to set
down multiple smoke
screens and launch
an afterimage attack!

Master! Draw
the speed!

...I've figured it
out... I know
that MH...

...

That MH... by the
sound of the engine...
that MH's memory...
it's being controlled...

...but we will win the
day... and the name of
Allen Bradford will become
known far and wide!

It may be one of the
Galaxy's most
powerful machines...

オン オン オン オン オン

Doesn't seem like we
have much of a chance
here... Despite your
gallant efforts...

Hey Kyo! I'm
gonna give you
a little help over
here, okay!

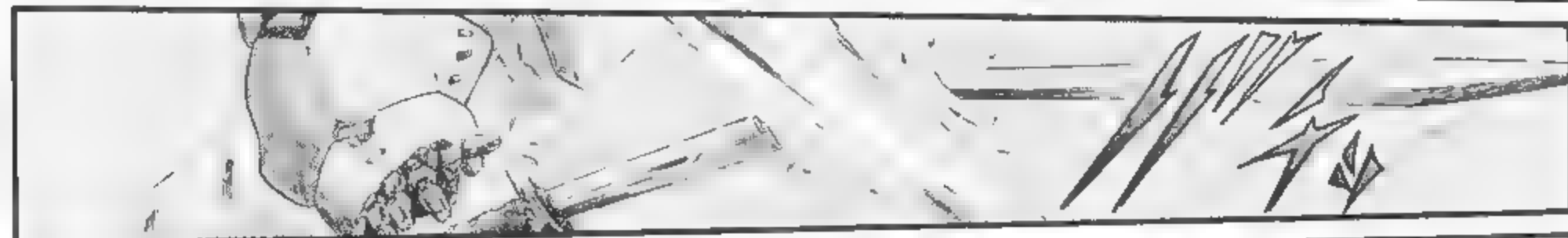
Heh!

I think we're
alright here!

But there's
something about
that tuning...

Kyo!
Activate
anti-shock!

You've got to
be kidding!





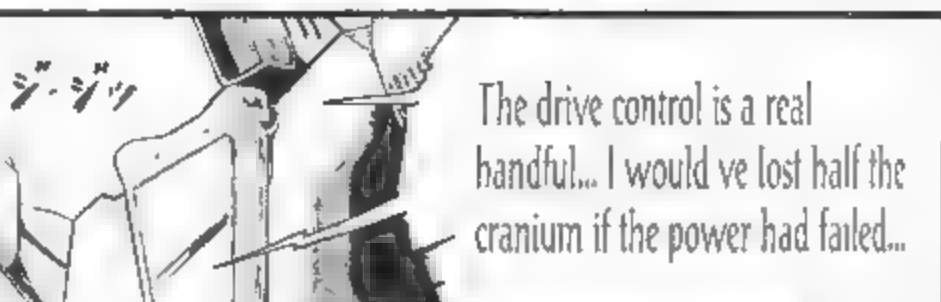
What was that!



Nice parry!
What speed!



They could see my
sword all along!



The drive control is a real
handful... I would've lost half the
cranium if the power had failed...



Sensational! You're the
sensational one! At
least I can't believe
what you did... In
the power we have
it's still can't believe it!



Only a maniac
would resort to
such insanity!

Did you see that,
folks... The guy
launched a parallel
attack at peak power
during pulsation!



That... was...
no... act of
swordsmanship
Master...

How you doin' back
there, Kyo? You
okay? Did you see
that great parry he
made? what a sensa-
tional machine!



You had them dead
to rights... The only
thing he could do
was engage full
power and retreat..

There's something
wrong. Could it be...?

Master. He's
engaging again.

ポッポッ

オンオンオン

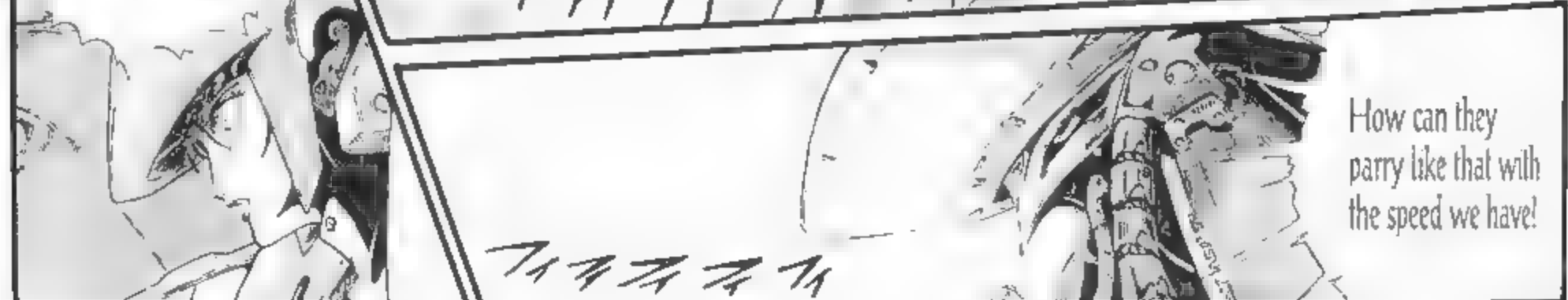
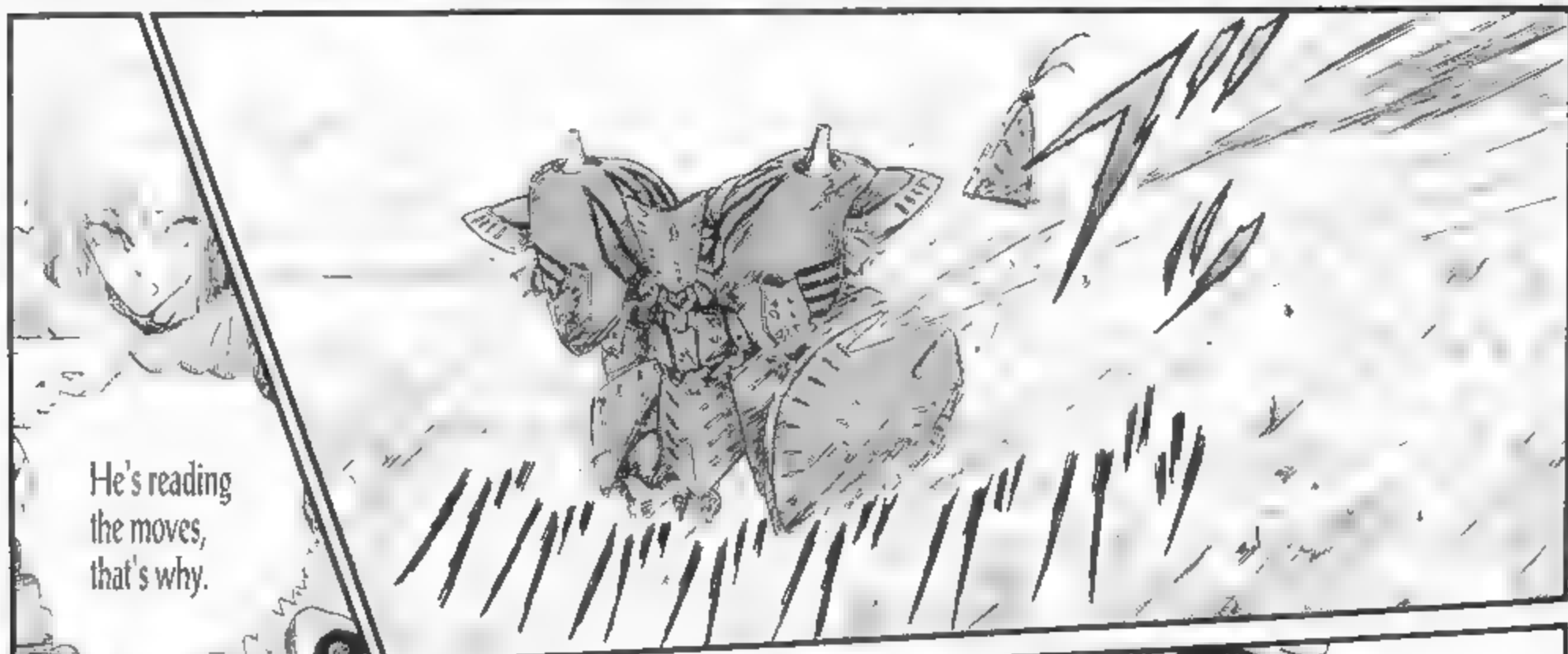
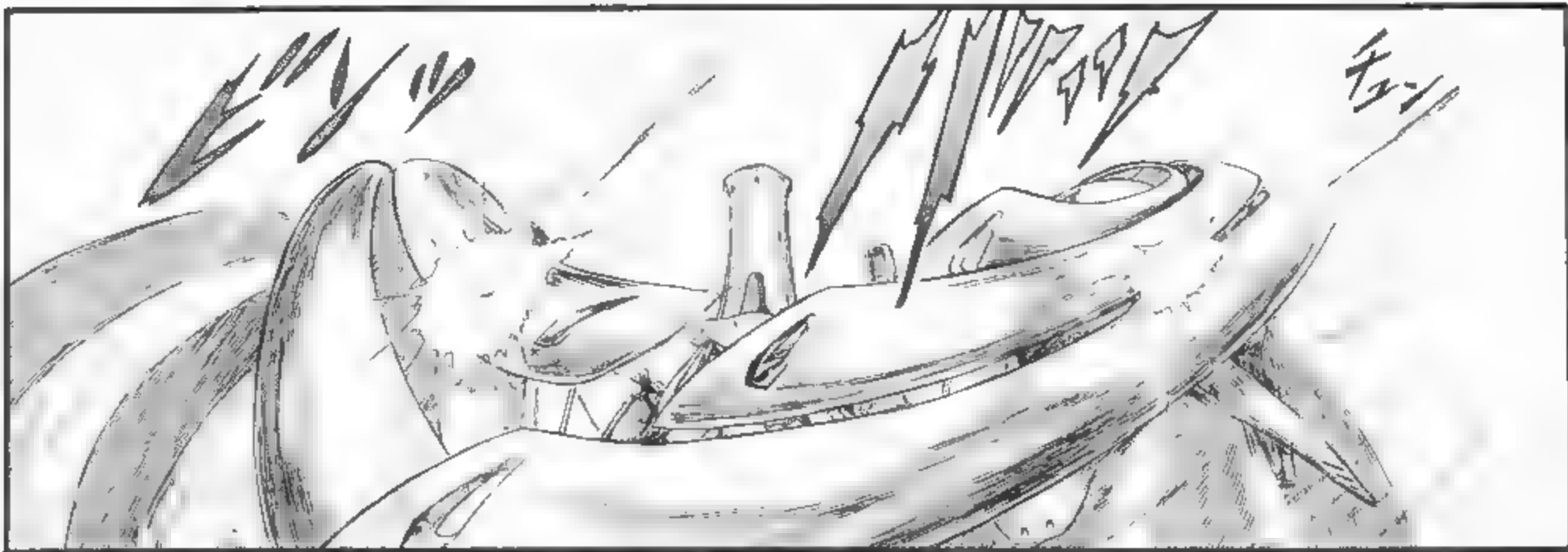
カッカッ
カッカッ

He could be
the culprit...

ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ

Someone must have
seen me feign dying in
the shuttle explosion!

They can't win
with such hand-
to-hand tactics...



She can't match us with that MH! We've won... Master, we've won.

It makes me so sad... to know now...

It's Atropos as I expected...

The way they maneuvered! It was like... they knew exactly how I tuned...

It can't be! Nobody can stop a Ballanche masterpiece fatima in a KOC ranked mortar headd...!

Wait a minute... Who was that fatima I tutored about pulsation applications?

Power boosting via output compensation, huh...

Uh-uh...

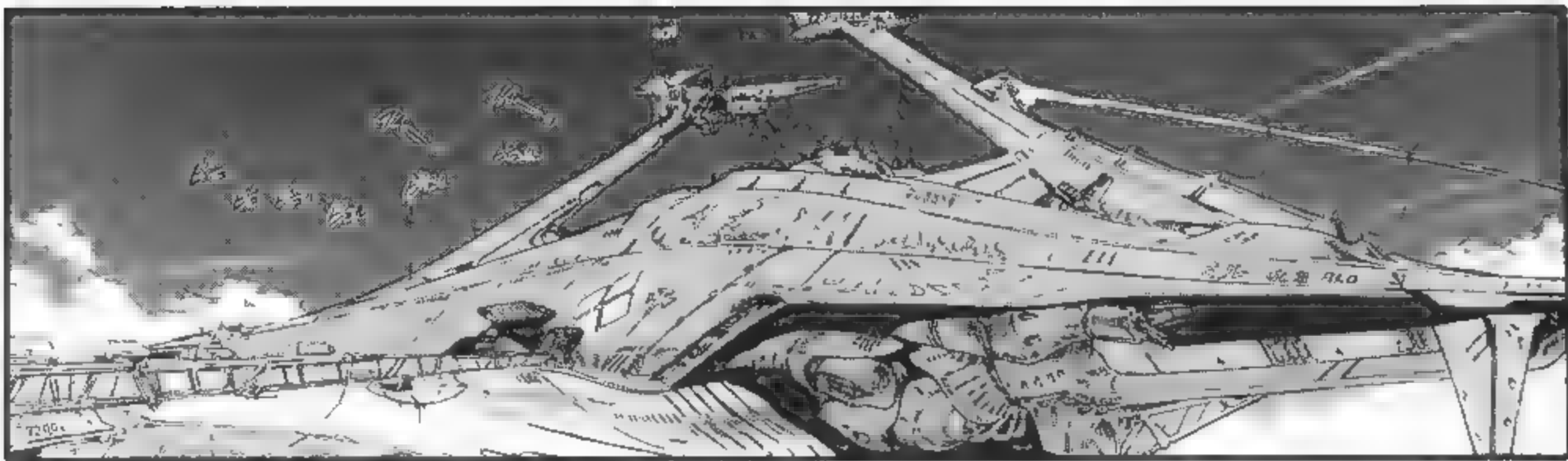
No. Toki.

Was it aaah... Sszz?

Kyo! That's who it was!

It's missing something!

The reason why they couldn't parry your blow, master... was because that MH has no headliner movement



...and command a
regiment of imperial
guards to help rescue
H.S. Majesty .



I've decided to captain
the HMS Mirr, the
remaining WHALE
moored at the Palace...

Lonn! You
should be
resting!



But remember...
Any more move-
ment on our part
will tip off the rest
of the Galaxy...



I don't think Schaft is
capable of handling
the situation on his
own... He needs
support...

...not being allowed to
guard the corridor... I was
ready to face anyone, even
the likes of Paion...



I am grateful to Lord
Kaen for his help,
don't get me wrong
but I feel humiliated .



The pain I feel in this
arm reminds me con-
stantly of the distrust
that the Gods and
people of Delta Belun
must feel towards me.

Before I succumb to the pressure of such heavy responsibility, I'm determined to do all that I can to uphold the Mirage code.

We mustn't, even for a split second, allow anyone to doubt the courage and integrity of those who wear this sanguine cross!

low - gain

You are the cutest thing... Give me your hand...

Danny: Ah, yes... seek the final truth

The mirage logo.. Never figured out what all the fuss was about...

As... you wish here

「ボウ」
「ミ」
「ミ」
「ミ」

Amaterasu designed it and Auge together as partners. It's a Mirage machine, no matter what the pundits may say... So take it and kick ass...

No headliner can rock and roll without an MH...

The Schpeltor?
...To me?

...and don't forget to attach a Mirage mark to it so whoever it is you do meet doesn't think it's me and high tail it... capeesh!

I don't care what kinda shape you return it in, but if I don't see another kill mark on its busted shoulder, there's gonna be trouble...

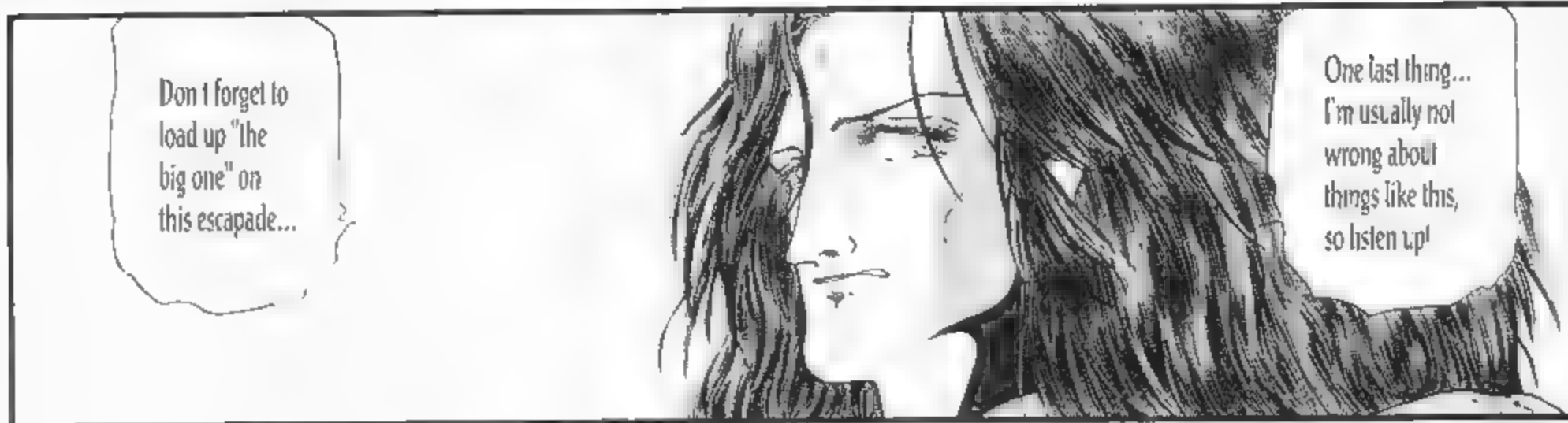


We are all in
your debt, Sir
Dougulus...

Thank you...



I've made sure a
new cockpit will
be installed before
you reach Both..



Don't forget to
load up "the
big one" on
this escapade...

One last thing...
I'm usually not
wrong about
things like this,
so listen up!

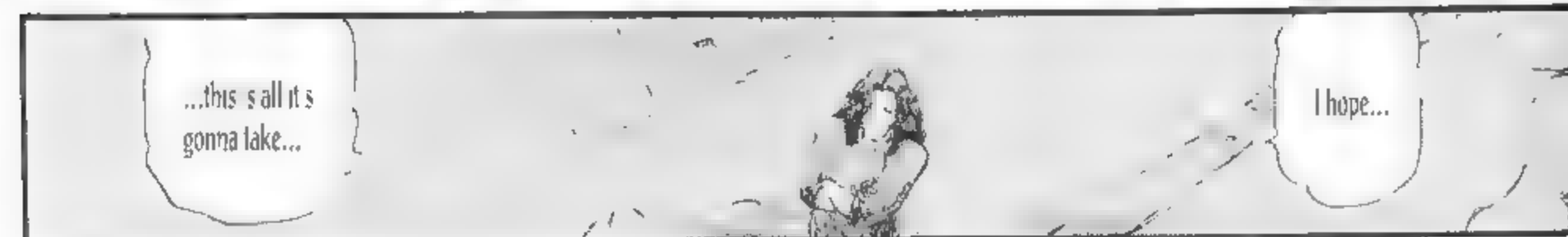


You mean ..
a buster
launcher?



Let me remind you that the
damper recoil is going to
be lighter than a B-mode.
At a glance, necessitating
energy to land on.
Please keep an eye on the
regenerator.

We are installing a
spare cockpit for the
LED Mirage #1b... The
condenser is empty...
All connections bypass
the Schpeltor's control
system voltage.

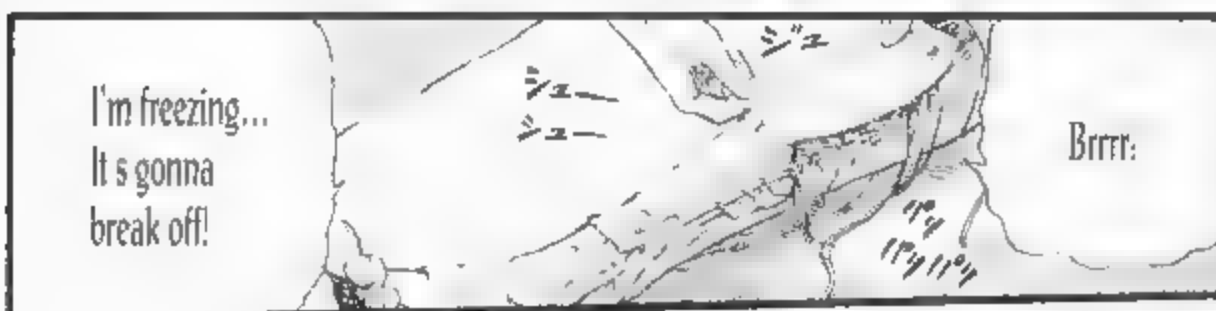
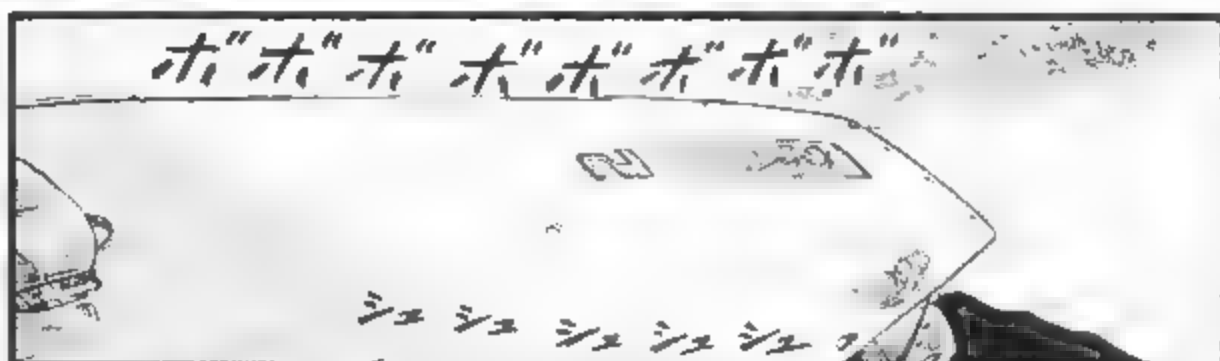


...this is all it's
gonna take...

I hope...

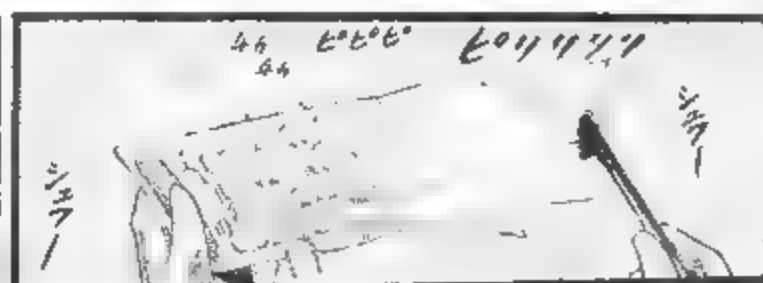


Where d you learn to drive, asshole!!



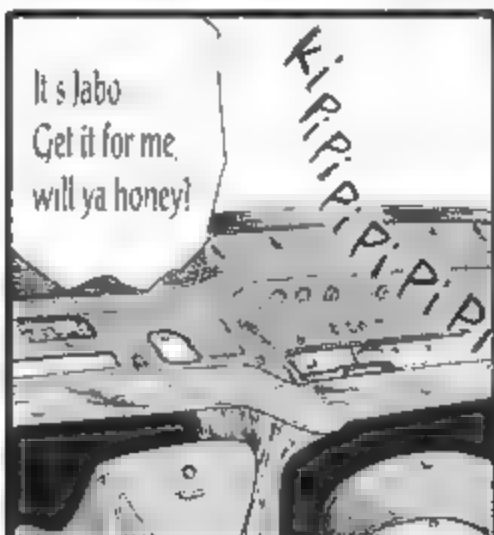
I'm freezing...
It s gonna
break off!

Brrrrr



The gouges can
only be repaired
in a regeneration
capsule...

You're burned down to the
muscle... Epidermal regenerative
bandaging isn't enough. When
this paste reaches room
temperature, it starts to fertilize.



It s labo
Get it for me,
will ya honey?



There's never been a
better reason for getting
a brand new coat of
young, nubile skin.

Ohhh noo!
I m gonna
pass on that
one...

I found out where "the Cool Ruler" expired on Both. Her Highness Princess Mugumica told me... without asking any questions as to why I was interested.

Hi Aisha. How are you feeling? Sounds like you and Allecto are back together again... I've got some news for you that I heard just this morning...

Yesterday, a huge force field suddenly appeared in a 30km radius of that spot, then vanished almost as quickly. I repeat... yesterday.

カキ
カキ
ビビッ

He passed away 260km and 1°25' north north east from the town of Crow Edge. I think it's also important you know that...

Thanks Jabo... You really came through for me. I'm sorry for troubling you like this.

Since this morning Vachr has been crawling with sorcerers... That's all I dared to ask..

Her Majesty said that it felt like a bolt of lightning rose out of the ground into the sky...

Are you really gonna have it?

By the way... about "your condition..."

My A-TOLL is turning into a rust bucket... Ha ha!

What are friends for? I wish I could help you more... but in this condition...

...but on the other hand, children born between two headliners with such weak chromosomes don't grow on trees, you know.. Wheeeeeee!

Why not? The father might be a fucking SOB...

Gotta bad feeling that.. I've just been devaluated

キ
I'm preening
honey

jealous? ...If so, then try squeezing a little extra out of Mr. Jonderful...

After all, I don't intend to raise the little brat... Concord will be a great nanny...

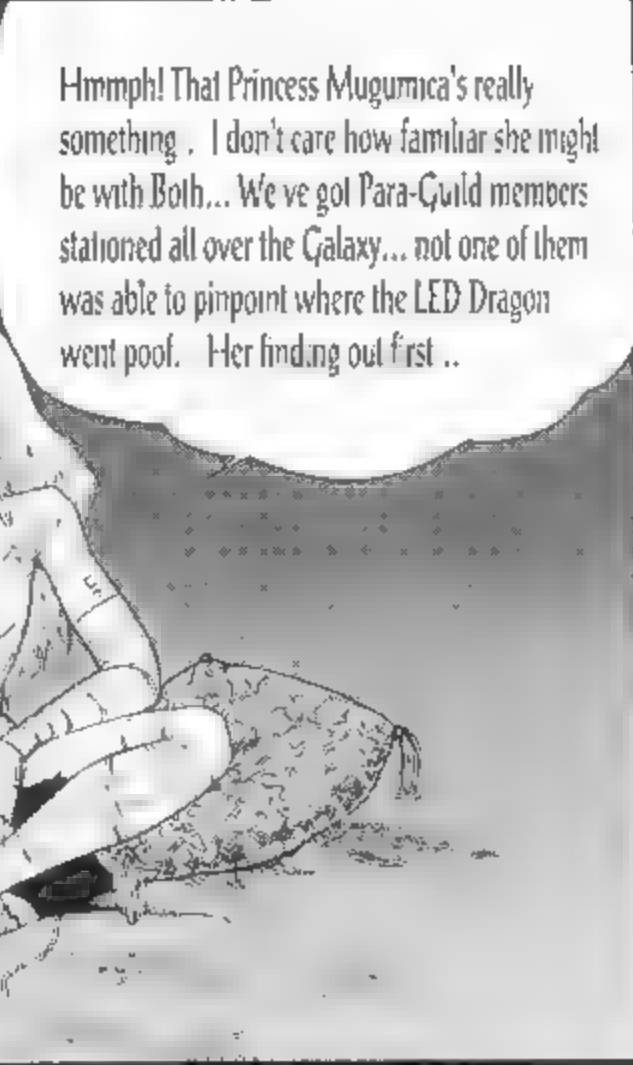
I. get a n'ight
away But you
need to ge' some
rest you know



Just goes to show how incompetent the AKD becomes in the absence of His Majesty... There are some huge lessons to be learned here



Hmmph! That Princess Mugumica's really something . I don't care how familiar she might be with Both... We've got Para-Guild members stationed all over the Galaxy... not one of them was able to pinpoint where the LED Dragon went poof. Her finding out first ..

A black and white illustration. In the foreground, a hand is shown holding a small, dark, rectangular object, possibly a book or a device. The background features a dark, silhouetted landscape with a night sky filled with stars. The overall style is that of a comic book or a graphic novel.

For starters... Allecto, conduct a full check of the Cross Mirage. Thanks to Lie, we've gotten it back in one piece...

But your whole
body must be in
excruciating pain..

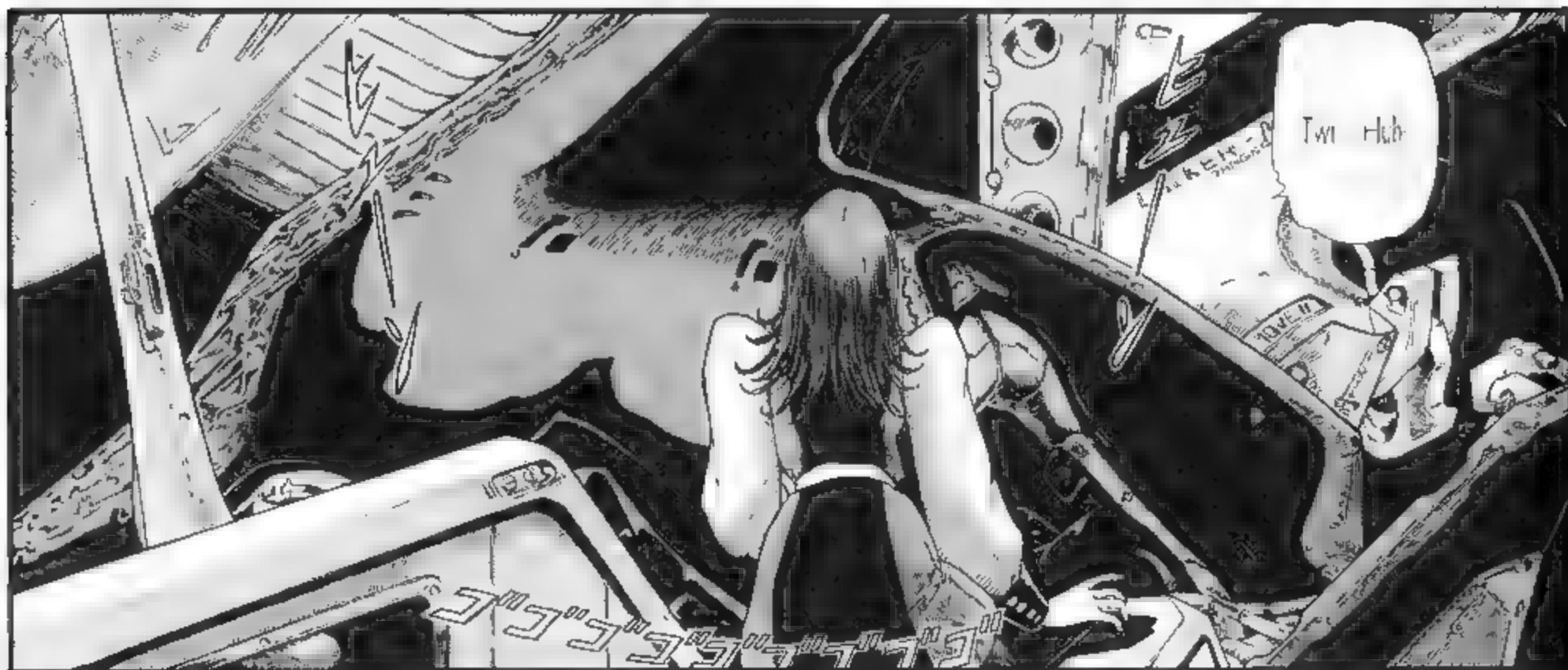


Anesthetic? No way!
Nobody in his right mind
would attempt to plot an
AMH on bankers, much
less stoned... I thought!

It's best not to risk making the same mistake .

ゴゴゴゴ

Two years ago. I was half paralyzed by an anesthetic.



Anti-radiation molecule-
atomic particle barrier
on MAX! Full
DRIVEN GOæin!
This is soooooome...
crazy shit!!

Take off successful! Sorry
for the delay, folks!
Interplanetary flight
now... in... progreeesss. !
Fuckin' A: SPEEEææD!
SOL 3.0 X 365 DAYS

We don't need them. All we need to do is bring out the best in you...

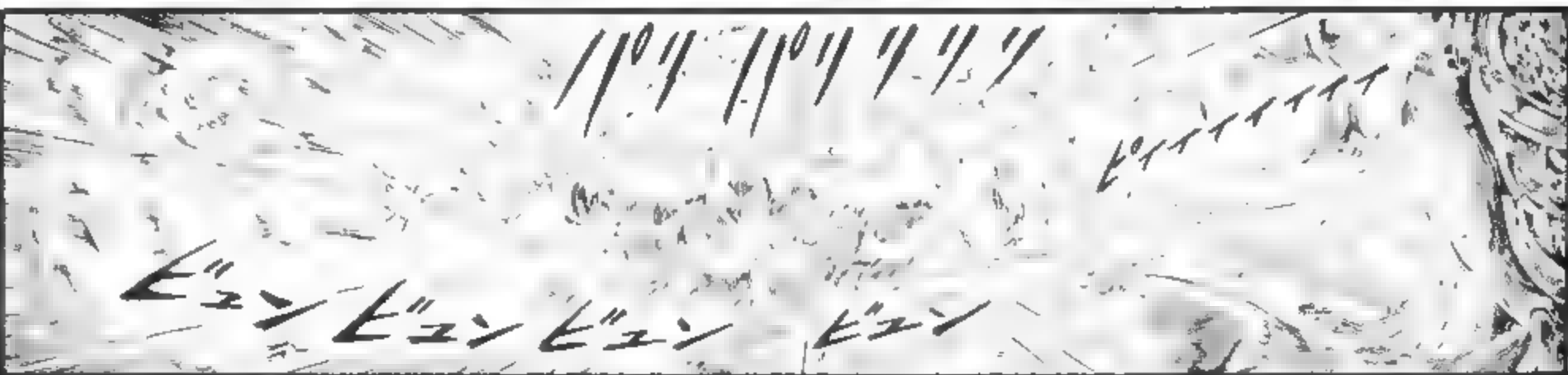
ゴングゴング

?

You're different from all the other MIs. None of those stupid tactical databases.

It's all yours, 'cause mama loves you sooo much

So I'm gonna install all my battle experience directly into your memory banks...



What a rush



Fee in' sooo
good...

ビーン ビーン ビーン

After a not
many men aound
to make mama
come anyway
ha ha ha!

Wow m
ting ng a' ever
Like a yea's a r
of erasms.

I'm tak'n it al.
off just for you.
Sweet e...

Take a look at
th's baby

Good for you
You've figured out
you can move on
your own.

Yeah! The radiation
and electron particles
bounc'ng off the barrier

Your pilot's name is
"Schaft," the only guy in the
Galaxy who can handle
you. . Say hi to him...

Next we're gonna
take the power of the
best god dammed M-1
in the Galaxy and
boost it tens of times

Huh?

A real pro! Even
the Emperor'd get
a kick out o' her!

Control... already!
That Paltanon!
She's a pip!



Shall we slow down for a while to size up the situation?

We are starting to put her on alert! Very little margin for error!



Maybe the tuning's too high... Everything's feeling the stress...

Starting to get some flutter in the controls...



Oh-oh!

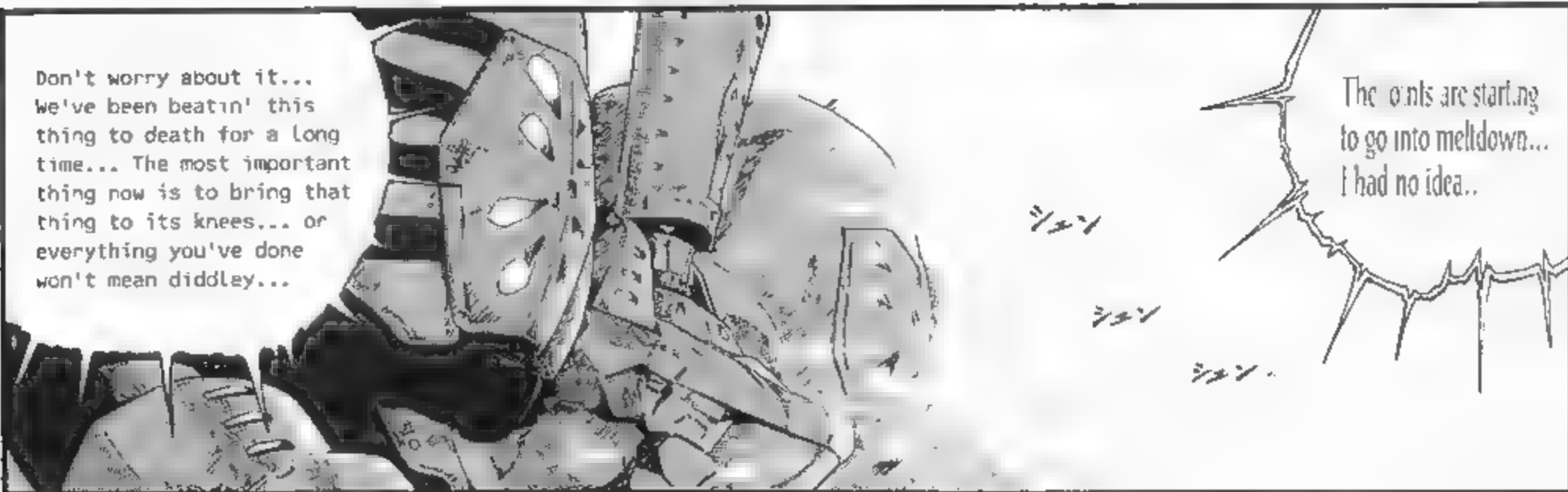


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Don't worry about it... We've been beatin' this thing to death for a long time... The most important thing now is to bring that thing to its knees... or everything you've done won't mean diddley...

The controls are starting to go into meltdown... I had no idea..

..but if we go that route,
I'm finished in this business!
Complete humiliation!
Might as well risk it all
right here and now!

We could also buy
time until Lord
Barrow's reinforce-
ments arrive...

Let's go
for it,
Kyo!

Master

Oh you poor
little thing!
Why?

It's you, isn't it...
Now I get it!

Kyo...!

And where d you get
that boy wonder at the
controls! ...Must be a
big world out there...

...and he's un-
mistakably after
your hide, Kiddo...

He's no doubt one
of Barrow's men...

...and I know
from experience
that... it's all true!!

Eternal youth and
immortality
Everything you wish
for .. The ability to
perform miracles...

There are all kinds of
legends that people still
believe about the Water of
Life, which just intensifies
their hunger to have it



First, mine is
its first battle
It's a virgin



Master There's
something going on
in that MH with
either Atropos or
the pilot controls



On top of that
Atropos can't get
off of it because
she's also a virgin
no previous MH
battle experience

Now since it has no previous
battle experience It's still not
very familiar with how it should
be responding to the controls

ググググググググ

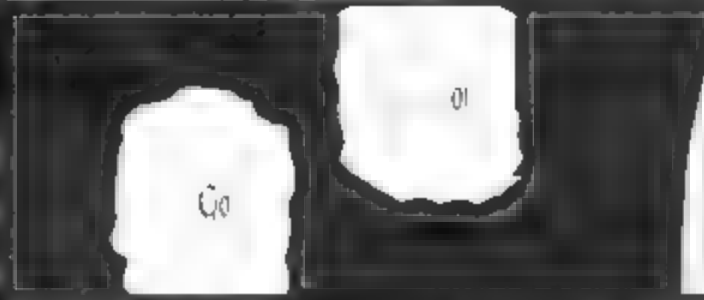
ジーン

ギュー

ギュー

ジーン

You very seldom see
a brand new MH
But we are looking at
one right now



Go

01



We've got her second guessing
"We're supposed to be superior
to them in both technology and
performance" She's saying to
herself "Me and the Knight"



When I tried... to
say... that word...
My head... it...

My memory...
it's being...
controlled...



What's
happening?



What's goin'
on up there?
...Kyo?!

"I'm
gonna... be

Master



err...h...

Mr. Sopp!!

Now here's a way
to get more power
out of an M-H when
you need to...



Mr. Sopp!!
Please...
Help!

Kyo! What
the hell's
goin' on...
Kyo!



Please, Mr
Sopp!! I feel
awful..

Help me...

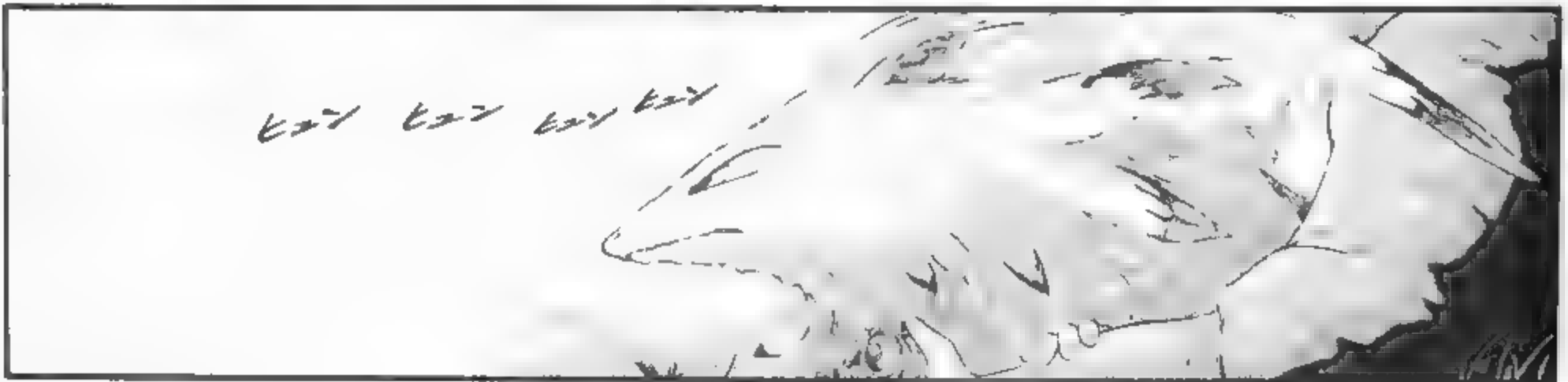


Father How
could you
have been
so cruel!

How could father do
it! ...Program me with
restrictions... besides
mind control!

Kyo!
...Talk
to me!

Kyo!
...God
damnit!



h...h...h...h...

The oil's
overheating...

ゴゴゴゴゴゴ

Hub? What's
that smell?

Stop foolin'
around... for
cryin' out
loud...

...You thought
you saw
something
out there...

What are you
lookin' at?

That old bucket's
been taken passed its
limits one or twice
before, me thinks

200

キキキキキキ

キキキキキキ

N. no i'm
okay... I'll be fine...
Sorry about that!

ゴゴゴゴゴゴ

Are you alright,
Kyol? I'm sorry...
Let's get outta here...

Master

You concentrate on
the maneuvers...

I'm alright. It's
subsided... Forget
about that... and turn
the body over to me

バンバンバン

キキキ

ドンッ

ドンッ

Little sister or not...
She's still knows how
to play the game...

That's no ordinary team
over there. They're of
Mirage caliber!

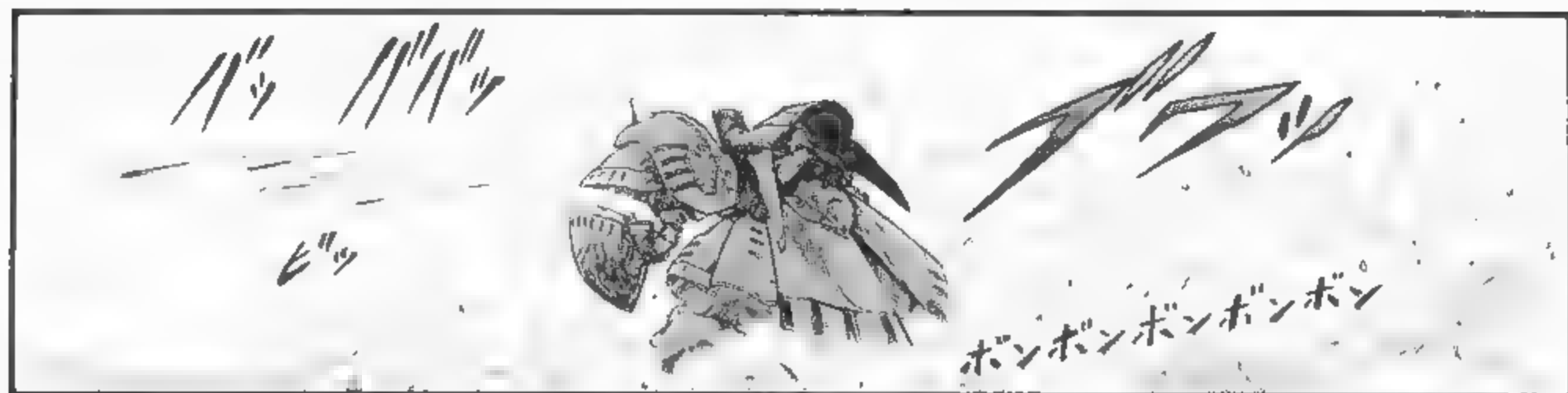
I'm sorry Mr. Sopp!
I can't get Auge to
come around.

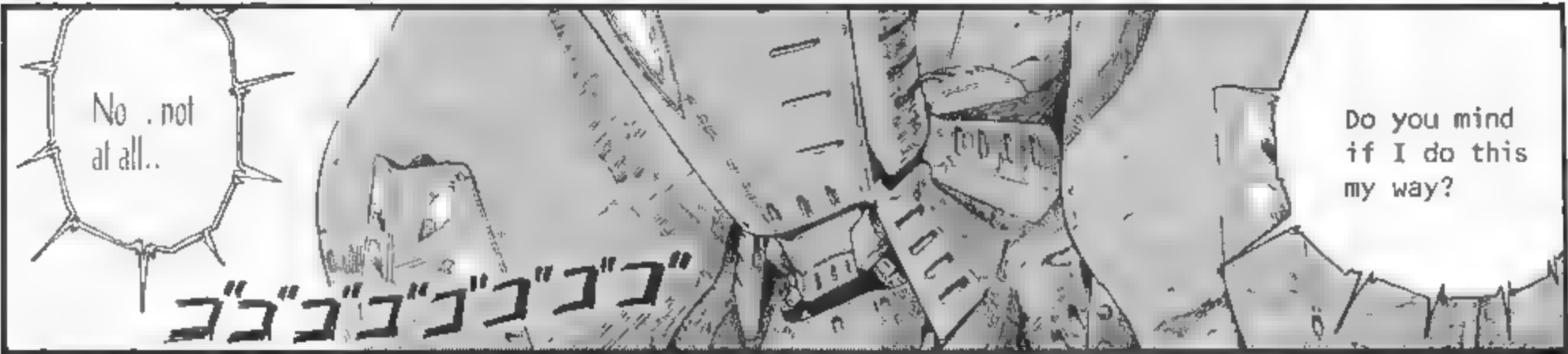
Do you think
she'll make it!

Here we go
Master. The kill...

Ah what the hell... I'm not gonna
get angry... That's the way it
goes... But if one of my Mirages
ever pulled a stunt like that... one
more unemployed headliner!

Oh no... What'd
you do that for!...





No... not
at all..

Do you mind
if I do this
my way?

ゴ"ゴ"ゴ"ゴ"ゴ"ゴ"ゴ



I'm behind you all the
way. Do what you wish.
"Knock yourself out" is the
term I think you use.



But...

I see... your
heart is not
open. Don't...



not to



don't care if
I'm behind you
all the way.



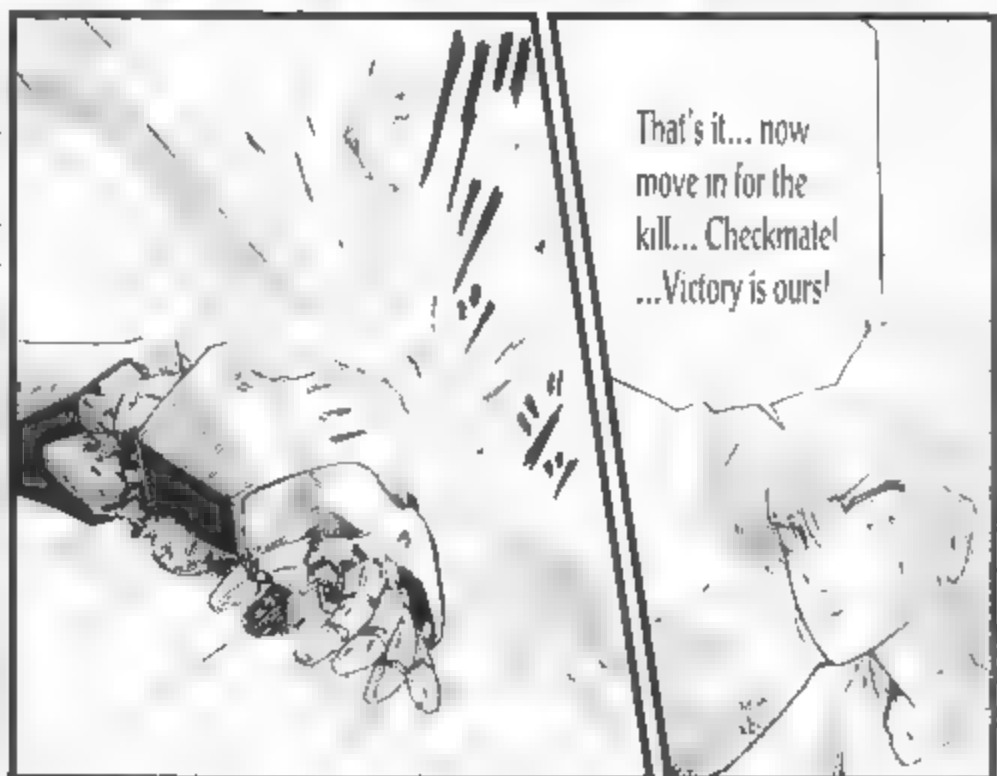
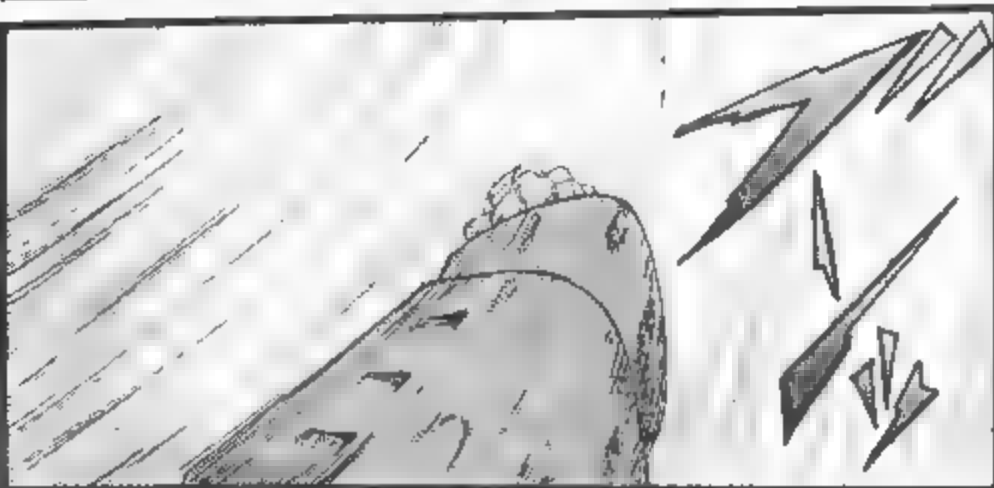
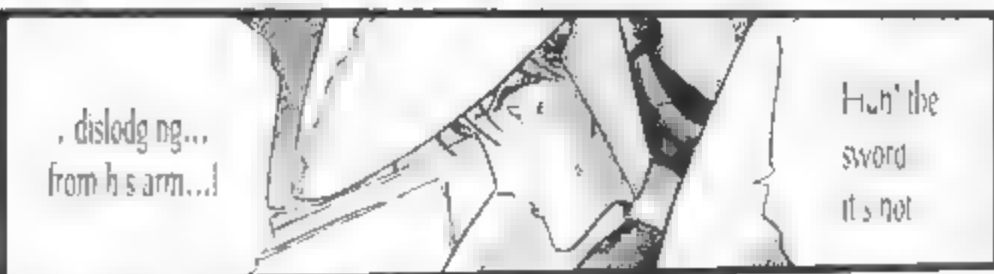
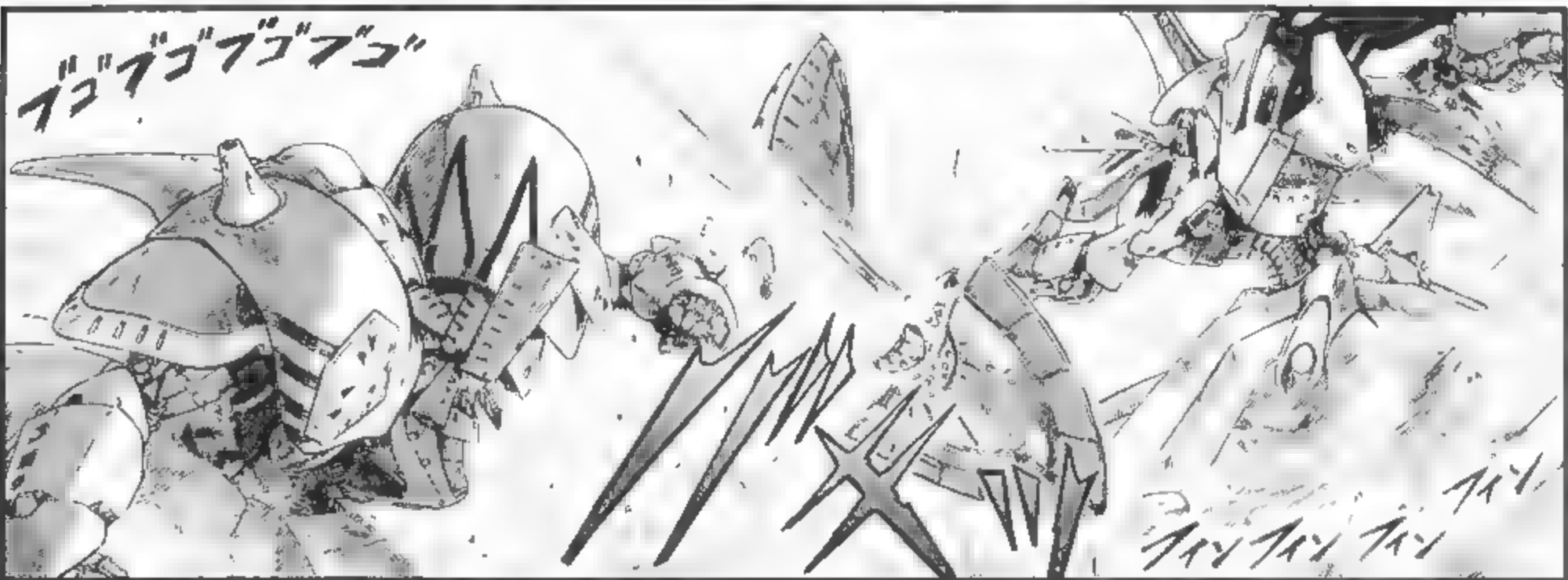
I see... my
master
is not open.



My mind...



ブ"オオオオオオオ



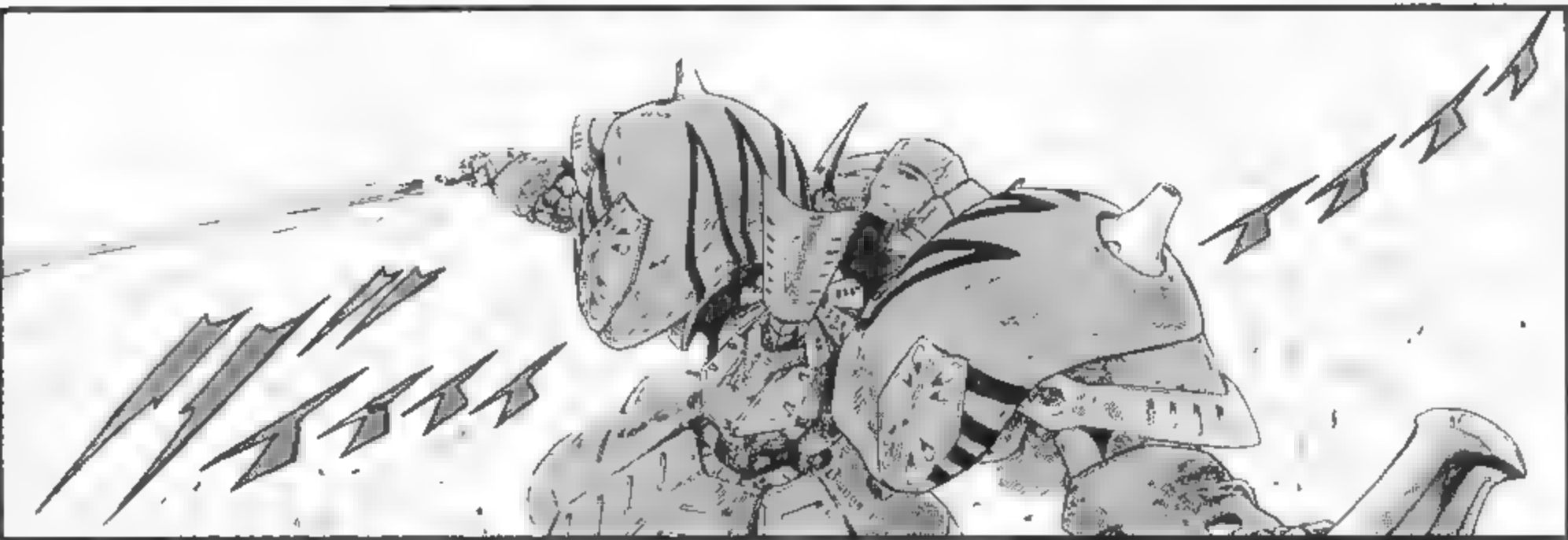


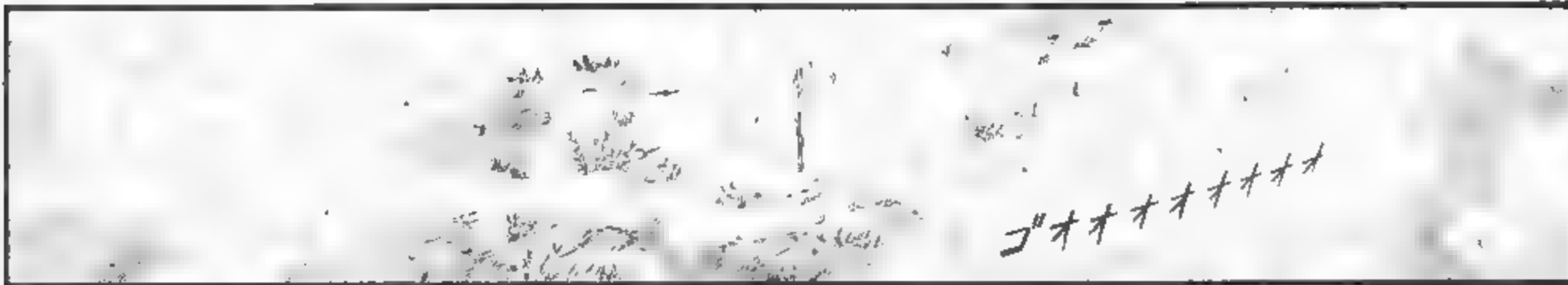
He... he... pun...
punched her!
What the...!



Oh no! The
controls...!







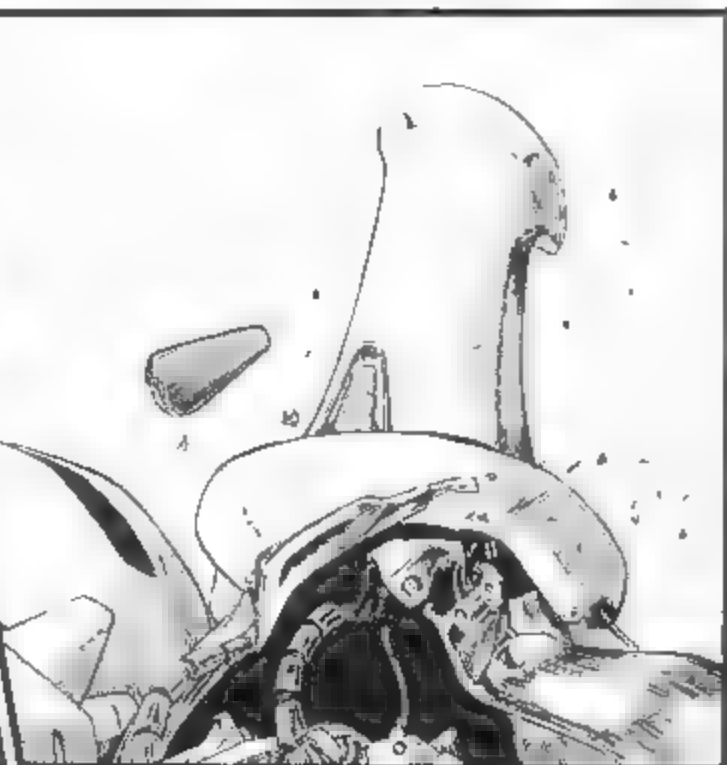
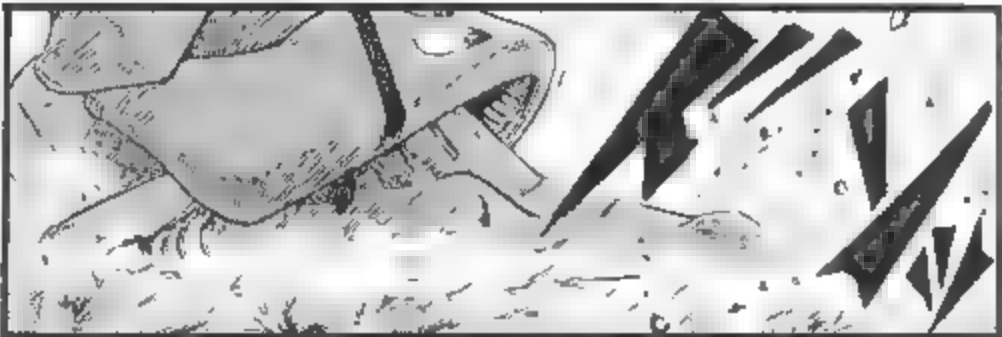
Now sheath your
sword... The
battle's over...

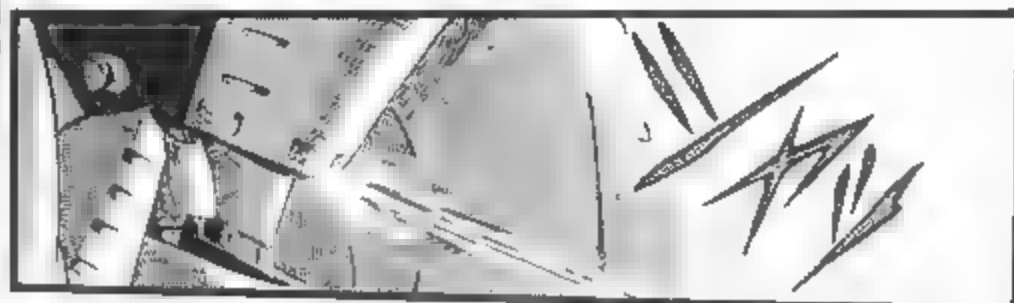
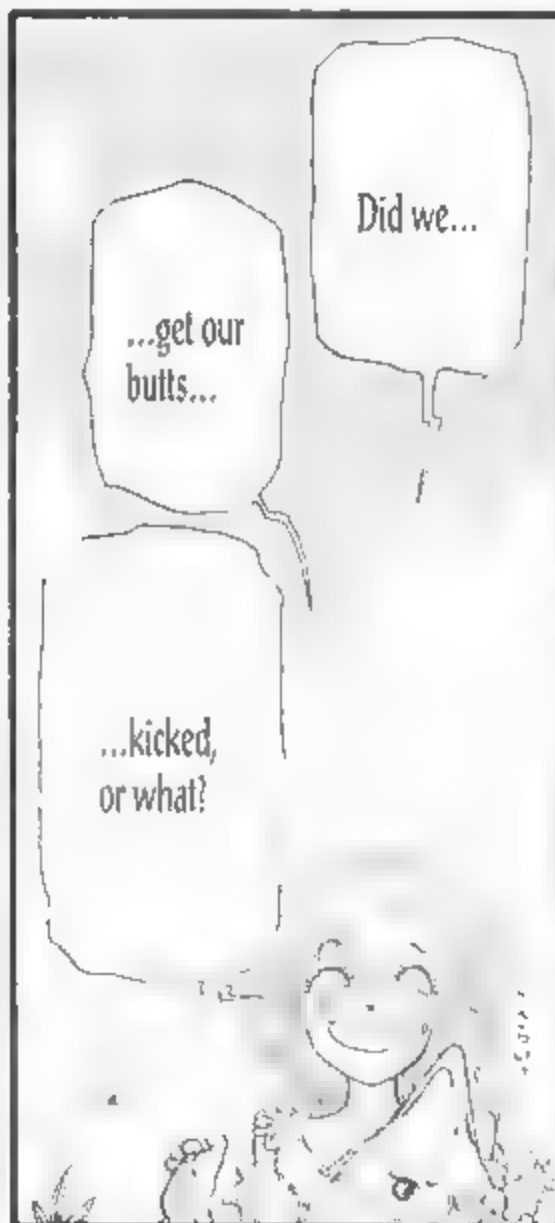
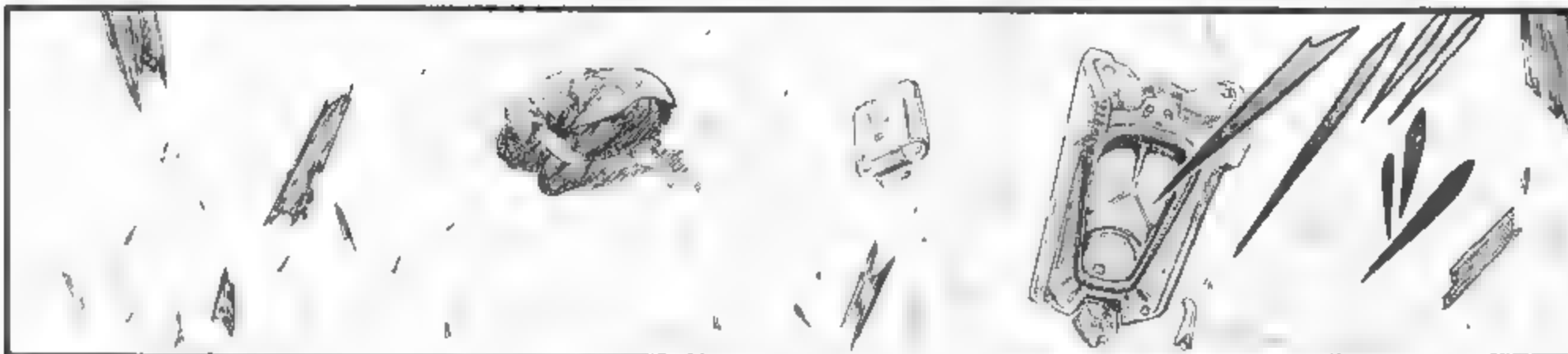
You've won..
Nice job...



Queen!!









Here's to the
"Cool Ruler" or
Kastenpo...

..in his successful
transmigration...
Hip hip... Hurrah



Let's see... What
do we have here?
...That's is one
weird MH...



I zapped a
dummy..



Great trick...

...forget
about it...

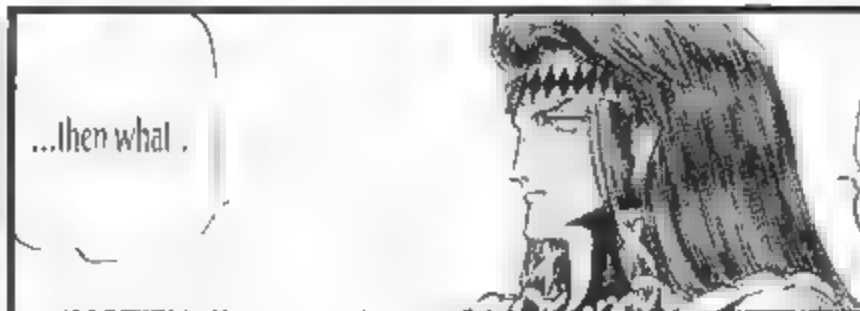
Maybe we
should just...



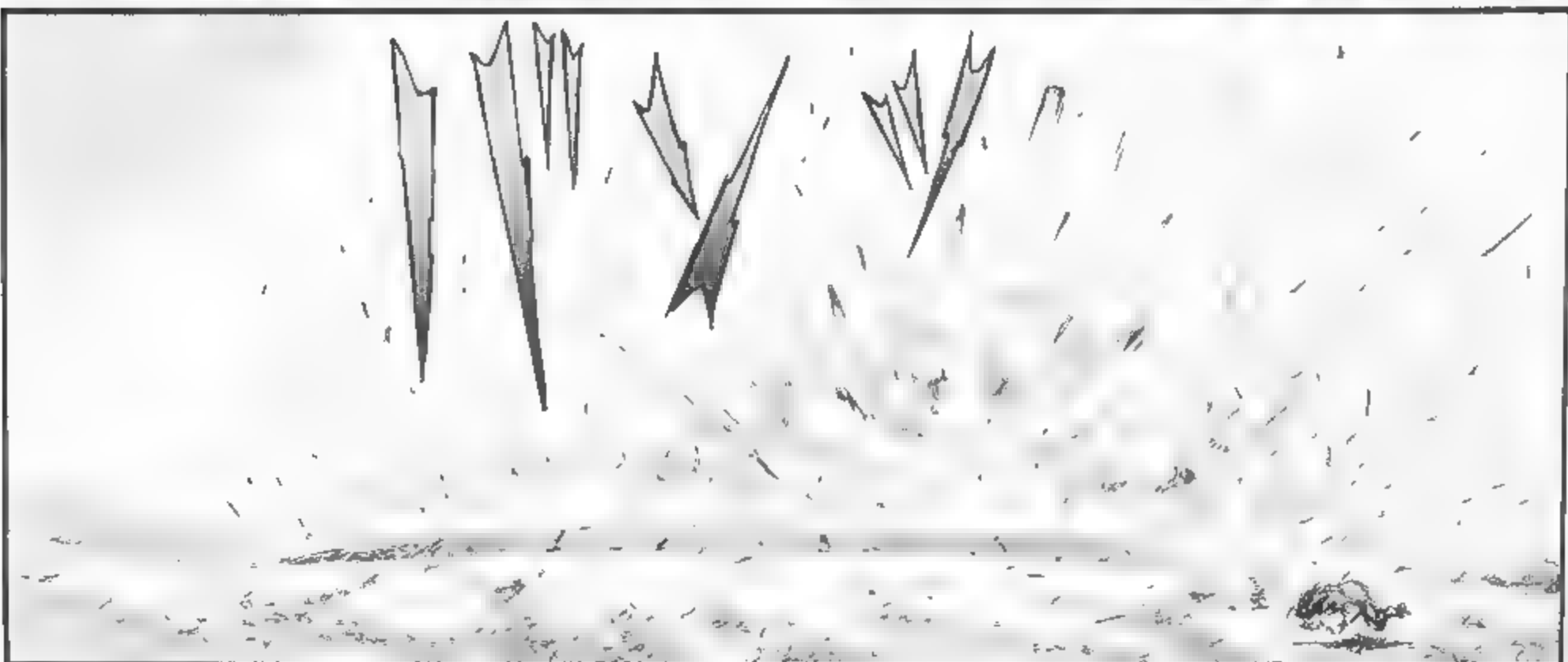
!!



...then what .



...Except when
Lord Barrow and
the rest show up...



ゴオオオオオオオオオ

ドッ

オッ

What's with the
self-destruct
mechanism...

イイイイイイイイイ

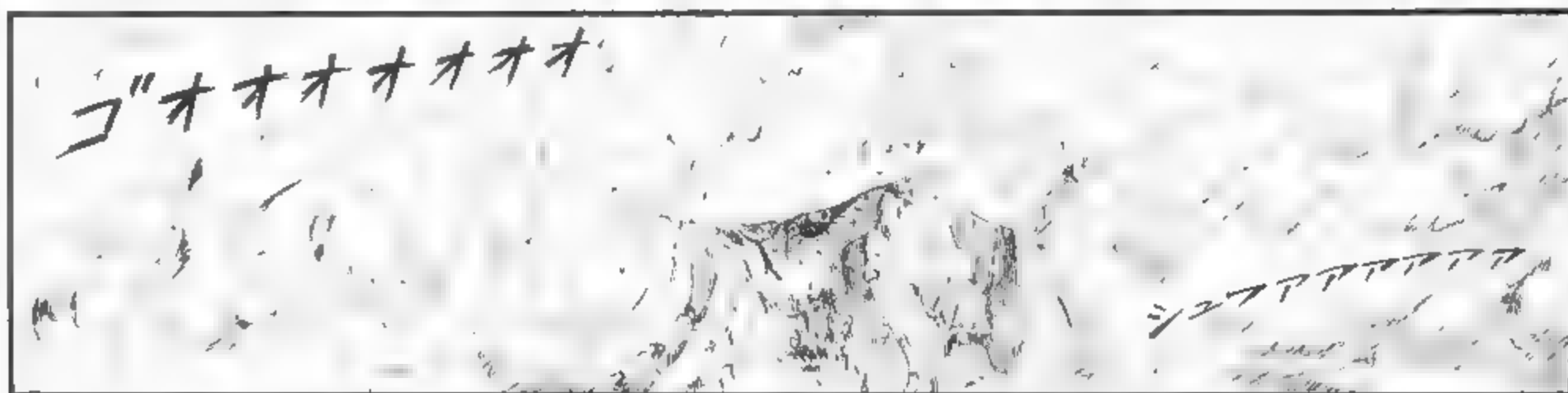
キッ

シュシュシュシュシュ

What the...!?

Who in their right
mind would go to
that extreme...
For the sake of
security...

Demi-flare
napalm!! Instant
meltdown...



Please forgive
me... I.

I'm sooo sorry...
about Auge...



Thank God
you're safe!



I'm so glad you weren't hurt

But be

Auge Auge's...

Oh, Mr Sapp
What have you done?

Thanks...
I know how you must have hated to do it..

No big deal... You did good... activating the self-destruct mechanism...

Auge'll be fine...

You were no match for them... I wouldn't be surprised if one of the Mirage knights had lost there...

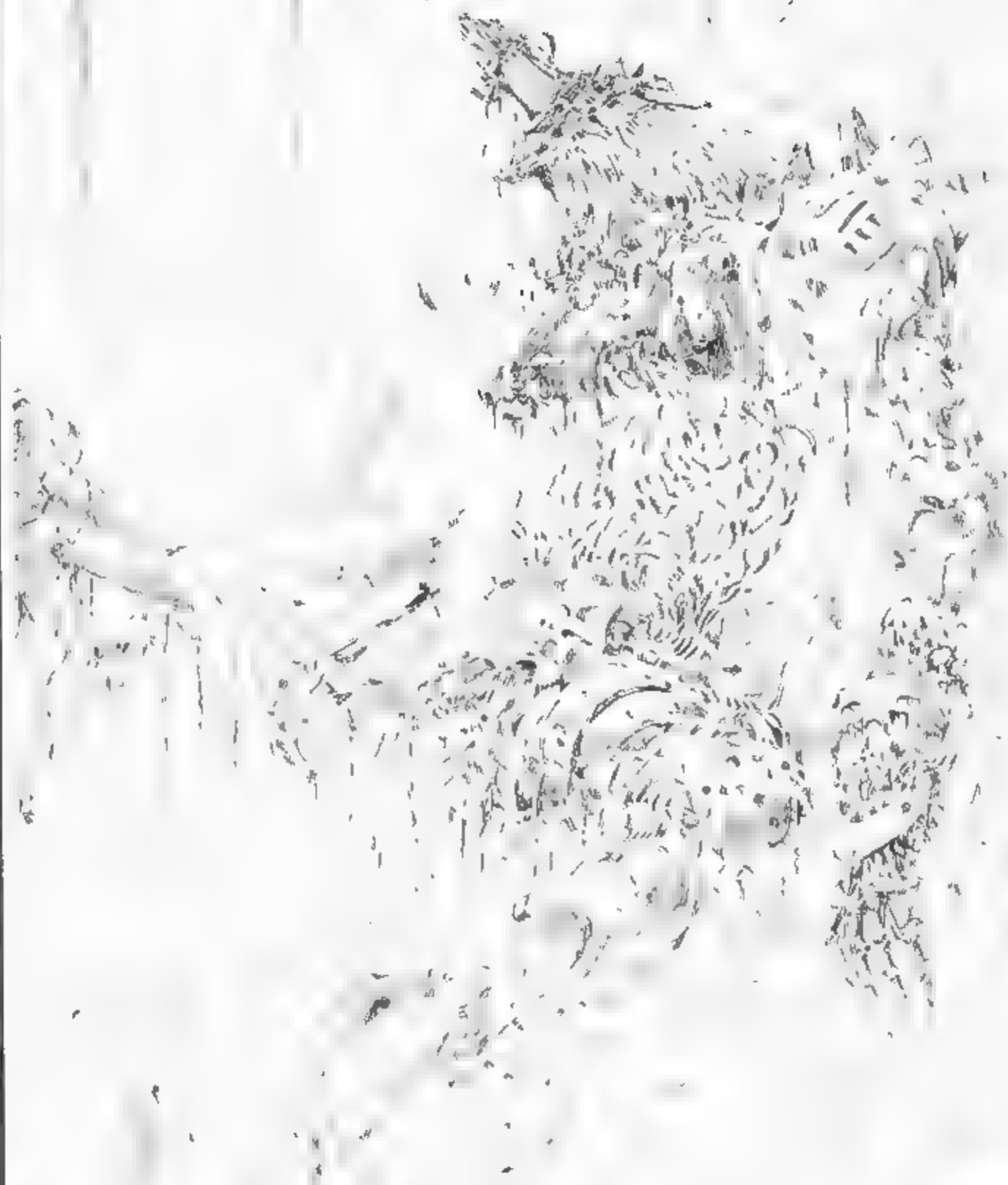
Oh Mr Sapp

All the bells and whistles went up in smoke... but the engine's still intact in the legs*..

We can rebuild him... This time just for you..

They tracked us all the way up here... We've gotta figure a way outta here .. and fast!

That's nothing compared to what we're supposed to do now!



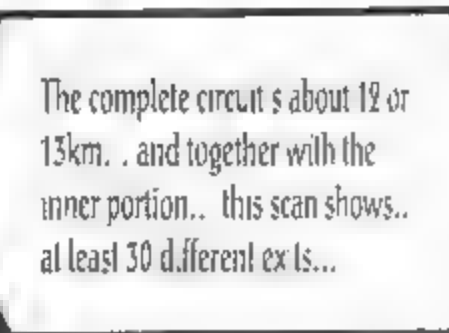
Even I can't cover
that amount of
ground alone...



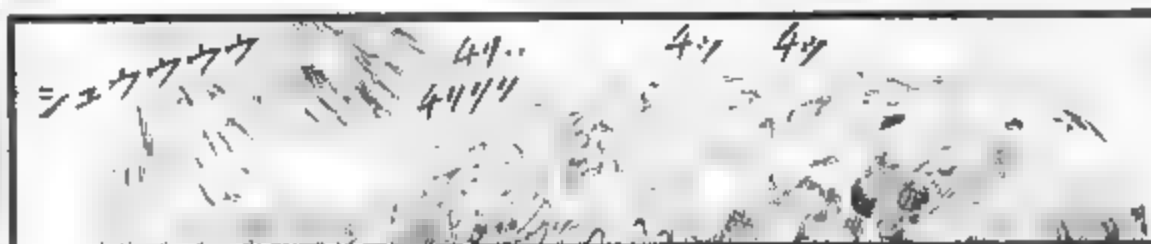
That passage is
over 10km long.



I doubt whether they'll try
to make a run for it while
there's still daylight ..
We're just gonna have to
wait for backup..

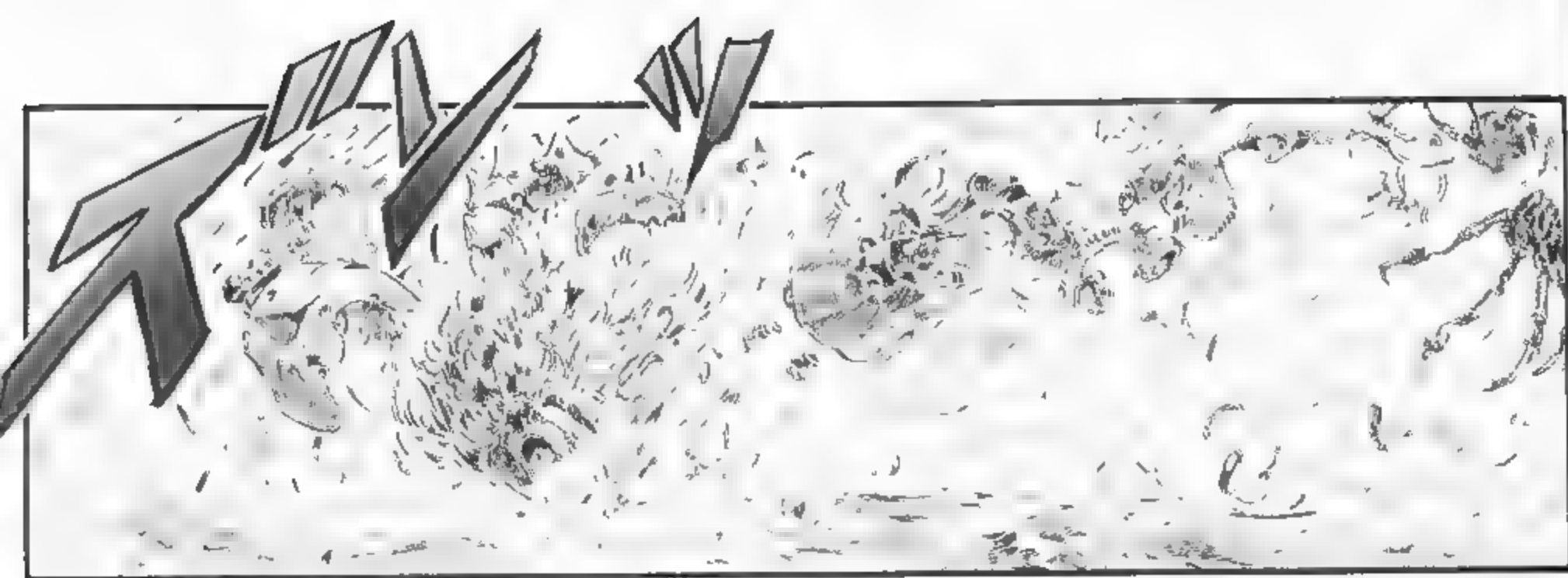


The complete circuit's about 12 or
13km. . and together with the
inner portion.. this scan shows..
at least 30 different ex-its...



But since the
interior's been
fossilized...

The burned armor's
trying to rejuvenate
itself from the
ashes!Incredible!



What a sight! Thread-bare clothes... The stitching coming out of her cape... Only one blouse to change into... No time to sew a new one... Living out in the wilderness for the better part of the year... Eating a steady diet of what we can dig out of the ground... The MH on its last legs... Ready for the junkyard... All we have to show for our k. l today... Is a pile of bills for expensive parts and repair... Look at her! ...And all she's done for me... And no money for proper medical care..



I may be a selfish and capricious bugger... But I have a wife who loves me... The daughter of a founder of Zanda City... Qukey Zanda... the town's namesake... And Kyo's fatima masterpiece... created by a genius... Chrome Ballanche... All of them... elite... known throughout the Galaxy! Then there's Allen Bradford... Who? Don't mind me... I'm just along for the ride... Oh yeah! ...The wise-guy... The sleeze factor in the headliner world... How much more do I have to put up with...



Shit! "I can get a commission I'm good! Damn good." That's been my motto... but it's starting to leave a bad taste in my mouth... Just one more disposable headliner is all I am... Look what the other knights with my ability... have to show for themselves..



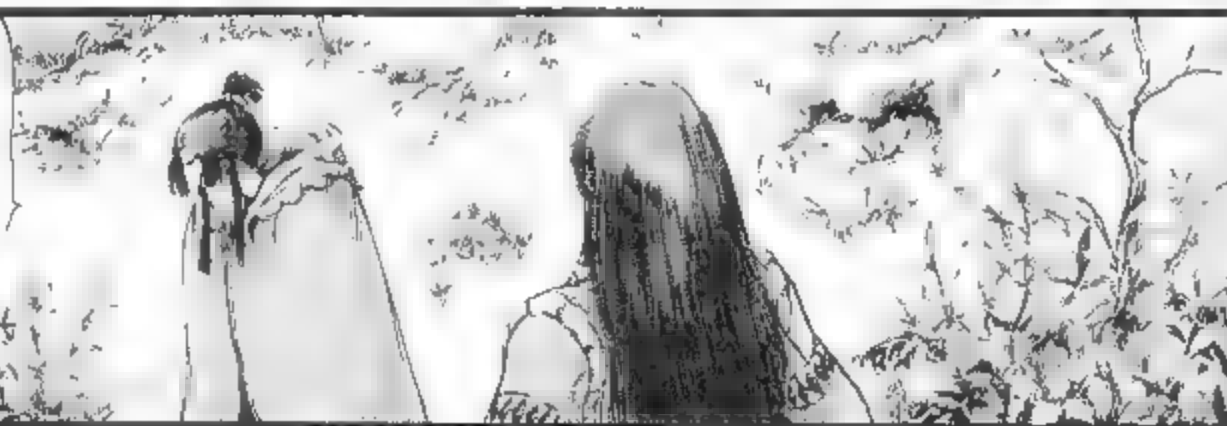
I took something...
I'll be okay.



How are
you feeling?



What's
wrong now?



...like I did
today... I beg
of you...
Please don't



I promise... on my
father's honor... that
I will never... never
again... take the
controls from you...



was because of
you... Without
you, I don't have
a chance... That's
the way it'll
always be

The reason
why we won
today...

Please
I want to be
by your side

give up
on me



And not let me either
Mr. Sopp's Queen is
watching over us.

"Hang in there, Kyo...
You're so lucky to
have found such a
knight. What balls!"

And Mr. Sopp
the knew about
what happened
today. He's a...



Shall we
contact the
AKD?

I can't detect any more
movement outside
But let's wait till dark
just in case

It's too late.

No need... If
they haven't
taken action
already...

We should eat
something, too

Is there anything
to eat... before
he... it... starts
squawking again...

Jeez!

Famished!

I left up in
the cupboard
upstairs...

And there were
some potatoes and
green peppers...

Here are some
emergency
supplies from
Auge...

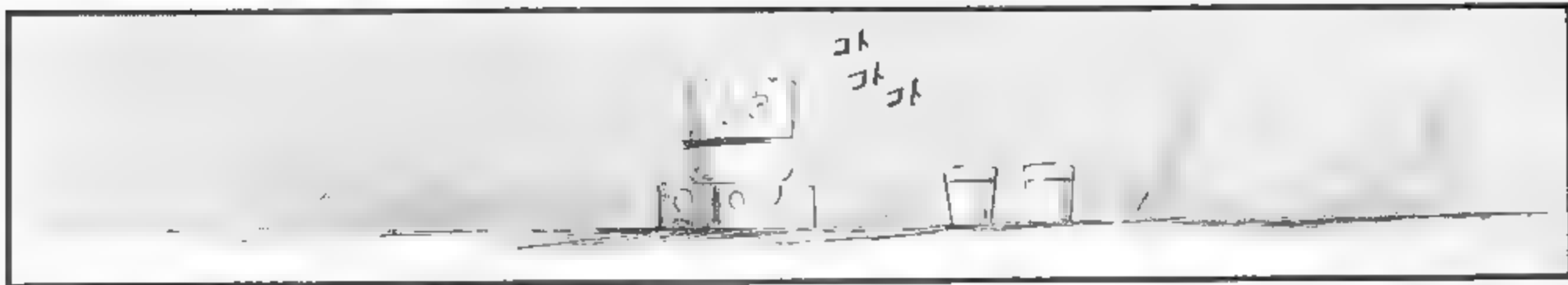
Huh?

Here you go,
Swe! Eat
this... Plenty
of stamina!

We'll laaa-deee-daaa...
a frickin' gourmet...
Sure gobbling up the
pages in this volume,
though.

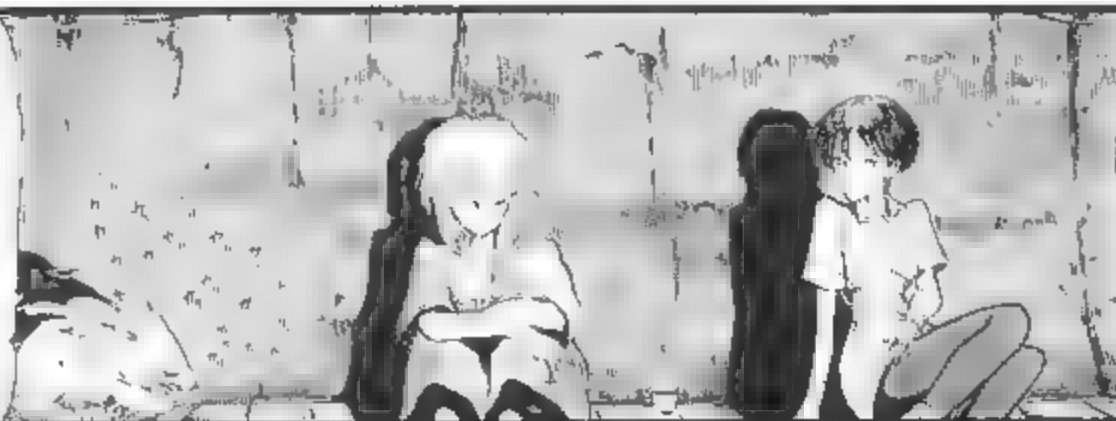
I guess... he
doesn't like
processed food
Only natura...

Hey... He won't
eat any of it



Trying to explain... to someone like you with the analytical and judgmental powers unimaginable to an ordinary human... is just a waste of time...

The reason why they anticipated so well could very well have been that they knew it was you at the controls...



...how they responded when they saw Aige which had to be completely unknown to them.. the way they attacked .



If.. that was the case then someone like you Mr. Sopp... would have a good idea who they were wouldn't you?

What are you talking about?



Huh?

One of my big sister's knowing that the enemy was Mr. Sopp's MH... How could she have withstood such an ordeal?

Few... great some and painful it must have been

It's just a fact of life

We Ballanche fatimas... are incapable of doing battle with Mr. Sopp ..



You mean to tell
me Ballanche...
programmed you
all like that...
What a madman!

That's ridiculous!
Such a contradictory
mind set... You'd all
be candidates for the
booby hatch...

No matter how
often a father may
have been... I would
have never resorted to
such a thing

No... that's
not I

..The way
you always
remembered us...

It's you,
Mr. Sopp..

They have
grandparents...
and mothers...
and sisters and
brothers

children
grandchildren...
you know!

It's just that
humans

Humans... they have heritage... a desire to leave something of themselves behind... They have children and grandchildren... They value their friends... They make things that will last..

Eatta! Grab hold of her!

Odetta! Aurora! Behave yourselves! Stop that silly dancing... right now!

You're the one who said we should take em out, Sopp!

My goodness...!

We don't get to have any of that... all around us... just one existence.. no connection to the past none to the future... all that remains for us is that we did battle...

They cherish things like "I was there when..." and stuff. For us... all of those things have culminated in our relationship to you, Mr. Sopp...

Poor Snizz... Tell you what... I'll be the teacher .. and you can be my student, okay

ガニト
ガニト

I wanna go to school, like the other kids

She knows more than that all the school teachers in the galaxy put her here



She was a
 girl named
 Odeko-chan.
 She was a
 girl.

Mr. Sopp smiling
 through the glass...

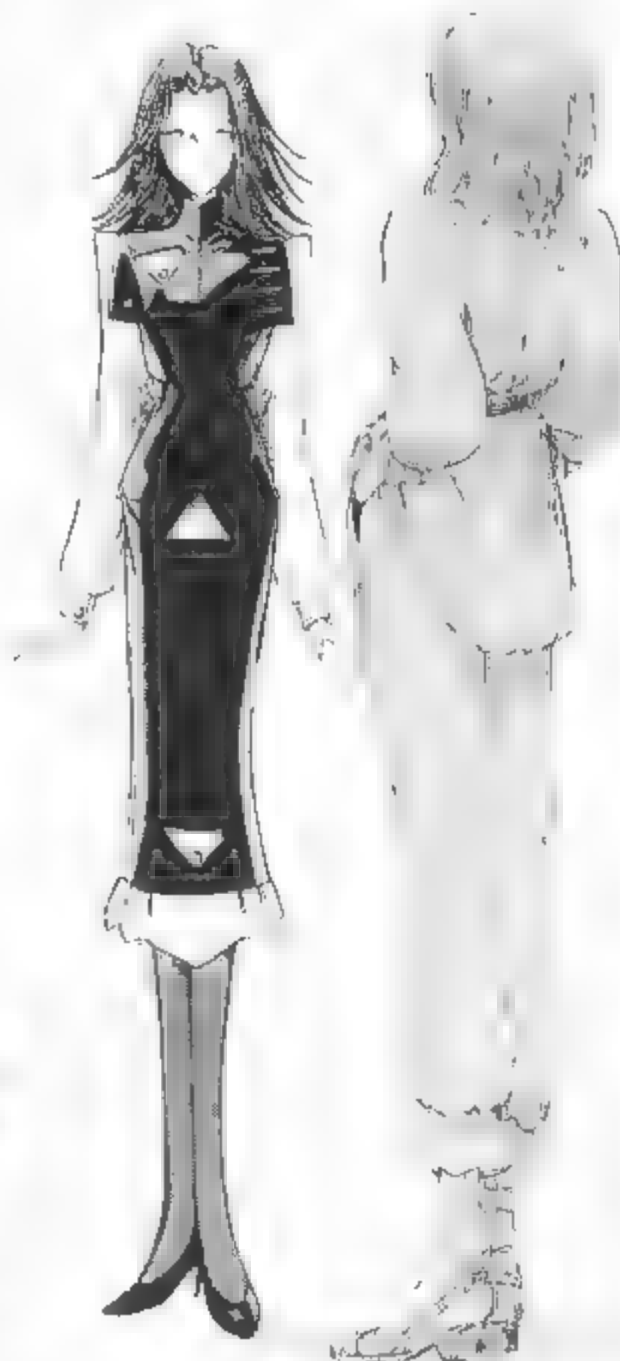
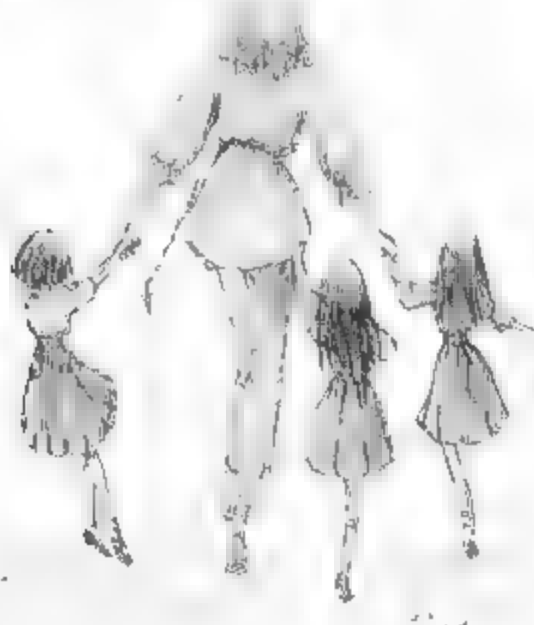


Mr. Sopp, who taught us
 everything he could with
 never a complaint...



Sending us off to our
 masters, biting his lip
 to keep from crying...

Remembering... no... memorizing...
 everything Mr. Sopp told us...
 Treasuring his words long after
 he was gone.



*trans. note: nickname derived from Megaeila's protruding forehead

You were the one who knew us even before we were conceived... and will remember us after we're gone..

was the last one born... So I know how all my big sisters and brothers envied you from all the memorabilia and stuff they had collected .

Besides our masters .. You are our "arch-master"



Even if we would have to self-destruct. . Not one of us would ever break our promise

You were the only person we would never make trouble for. We always wanted to be at our best behavior around you. We think about you all the time

Making such a big thing out of something so trivial to someone who rules a great empire and is responsible for millions of people's subjects.

I'm sorry for running off at the mouth like this



Please... be kind
to her and
remember us when
you're with her.



That's... that's why
Lachesis being able to be
so close to you is so
important. She is what
we all could only hope
and dream about.

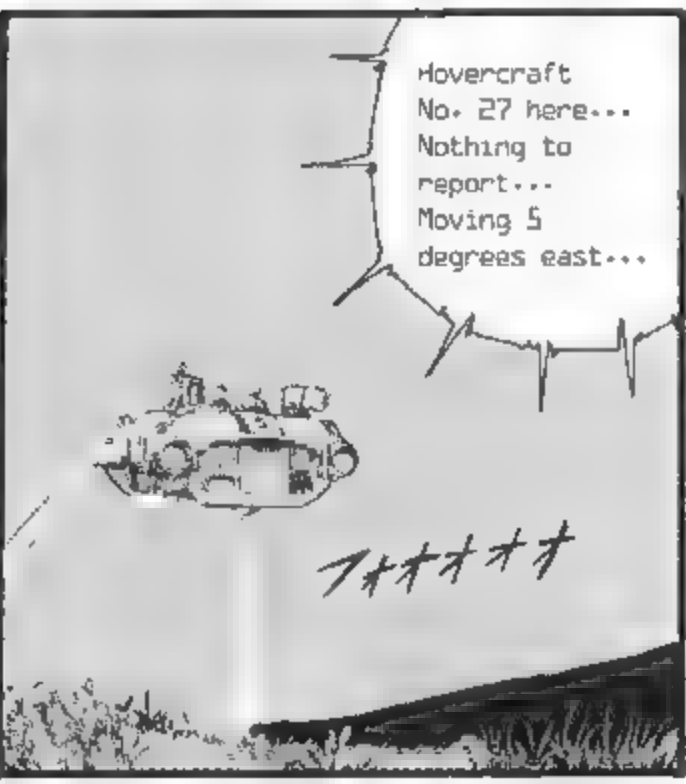
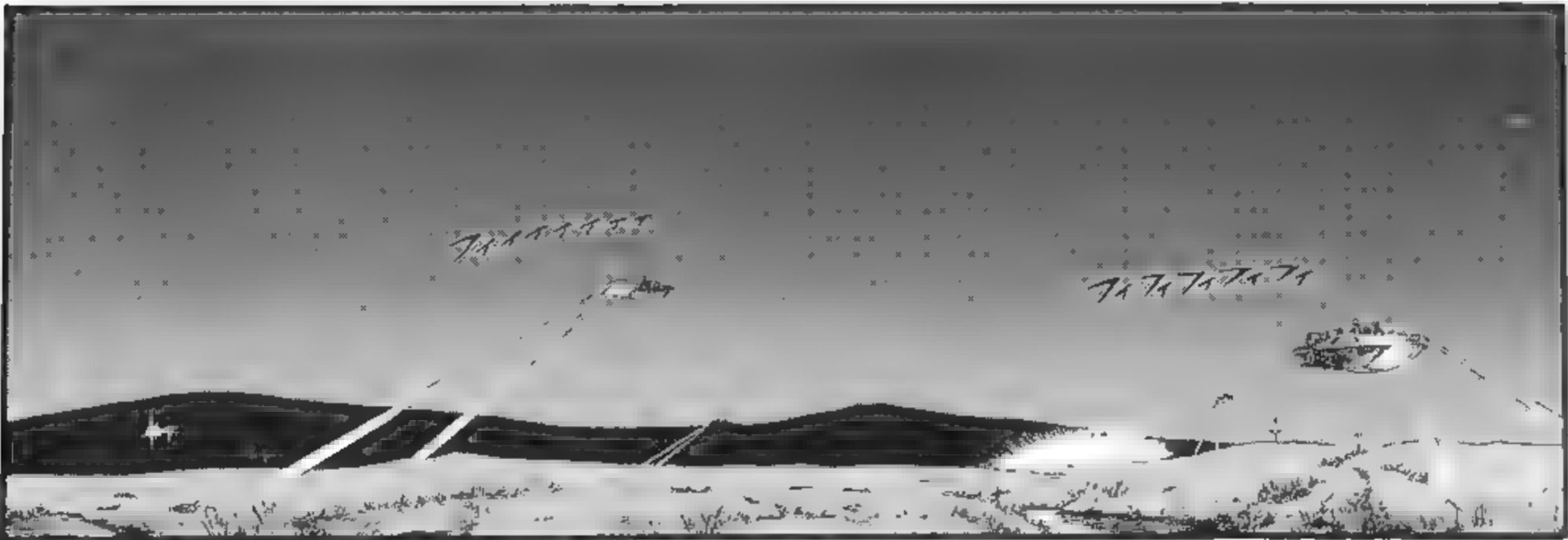


Why couldn't he
have just turned us
into regular rebels
or computers

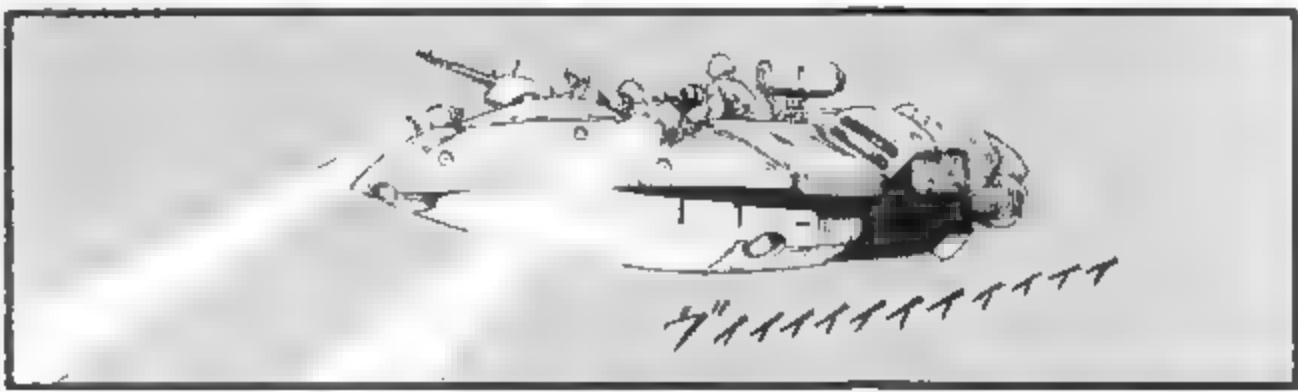
2



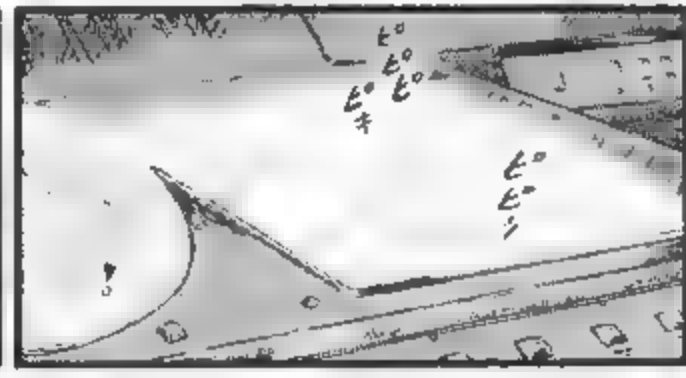
Why did
Lachesis do
what he did?



Hovercraft
No. 27 here...
Nothing to
report...
Moving 5
degrees east...



There's too much
wildlife wandering
around out there...
The scanner's going
crazy!



It's cold
out here at
night...
dammit!

No. 6 Dig being
relieved by No.
12... Heat up
the coffee...



Life form detected
in west underground
corridor B-14...
Calling Dr. Maessen...
This is urgent...



Busy as hell
down here, sir..

This way, sir..



HALT!



One...
no two..



Listen up...
No shooting
unless I give
the order



Oooh no .



...not again?



Right
away sir



Linsa, dear
A spot of tea,
if you don't
mind...



That screw-up
What a mess he's
gotten us into!

It seems Braford was
right, General..
Shall we start
covering the area
other than exits?



Eastern
corridor is
secured.
Standing by!

There's nobody
down there...
take my word
for it.



It's the tactics Braford seemed to have used in his victory today...

Something troubling you, General?



In my opinion... I'd like to congratulate him...

Lord Barrow's no doubt got him by the throat about now...



...but I think his heroics may have been somewhat too hasty...



I don't know but... something's wrong here... for some reason...

Hmmm



No sign of a serious engagement of any kind...

No evidence of being able to really dig in...

Look here... These footprints clearly left by his opponent... They're all over the place... Shuffling back and forth...



Of course, the extensive damage sustained by the Apache does need explaining...

No... he seems to have been purposely dodging his opponent, out of apprehension possibly...

Which leads me to conclude... that Braford thought twice about crossing swords with him...



Winning isn't everything, you know... It's difficult to praise a headhopper who uses such tactics...

But beating your opponent by shoving him into a silo... For me...

He-he-he

...he says...
which on second
thought, is an
excellent excuse.

...And his
fat ma was not
feel very well...

Now, General...
After all no one
actually witnessed
what happened. .

You fool!! Who ordered
you go into combat with
another MH!! Trying to
show off your manhood!

I am ordering you for
the last time! Your top
and only priority is to
find that nymph and
report back to me!

I employed the eyesight you're
so proud of to find that beast
as quickly as possible!! Your
battle skills didn't have any-
thing to do with it and still
don't impress me in the least!

You were specifically
ordered to capture the
nymph alive, weren't you!

I wouldn't have had
to hire you in the first
place .. I could have
found it myself...

Dismissed! If it
weren't for the
deterioration
occurring in my
powers...

This time...

I beg your
forgiveness...
I will risk my
life...

...useless...

You...

..You
never learn,
do you?...

You stupid. .
Lord Barrow's. .
confidence..
lost..

Seems alright
to me... He's
searching the
other direction...

Let's move as
soon as that dig
returns to base

I can't figure
this out... It's
never happened
before

..I'm
sorry

Surveillance digs
usually have infrared
cameras operating on
the opposite side

~~~~~

You can't always  
tell by the direction  
of the search light

In your present  
health You've got  
to be more careful

He-he-he... I'm so  
use to you being  
able to do anything  
in any situation

Oh yeah  
That's right...

There's not doubt  
all kinds of people  
on the way...

I'll take care of  
you... and... I'm  
not the only one

Just like you being  
a beacon of light  
for so many people  
on Delta Belen

Lachesis repre-  
sents our hopes  
and dreams.

The problem  
is... I can't live  
up to such  
expectations..

That's okay

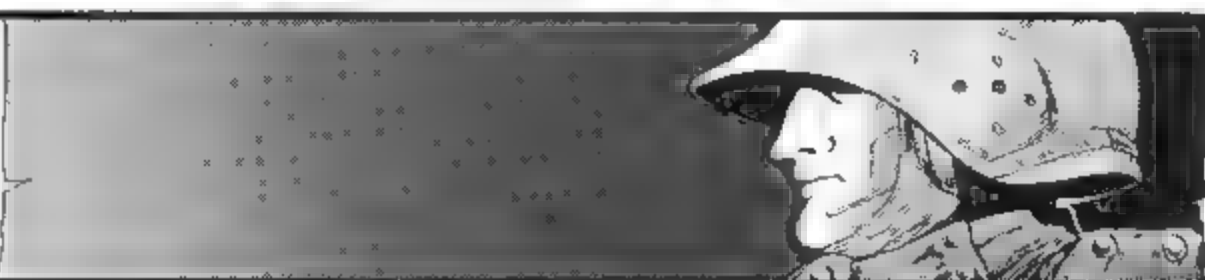


This duty is really getting to me, sir... Come on... Let me shoot off a little steam... Empty a magazine or two...

Put down your weapon! No shooting!



...a human is also going to be sacrificed...



Just keep in mind what Lord Barrow said . Out here, for every animal that is killed...



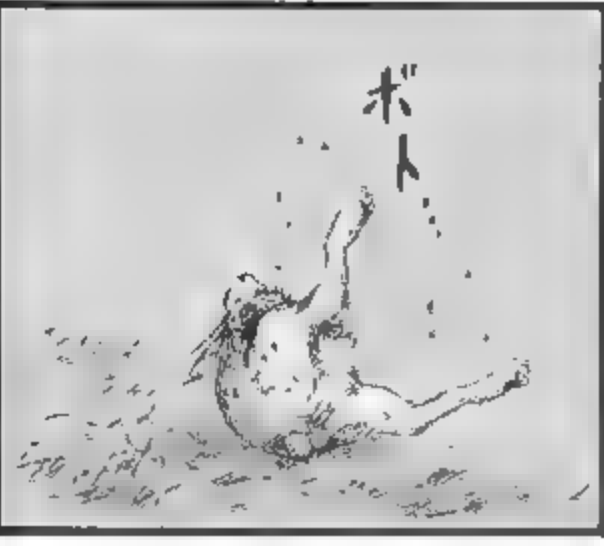
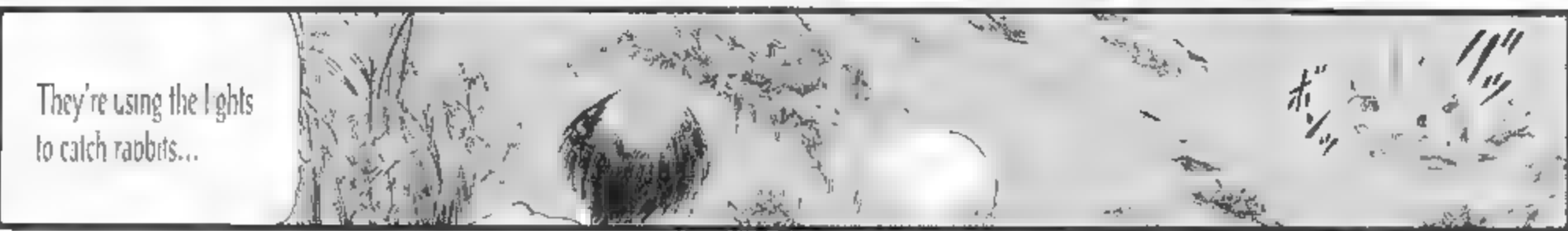
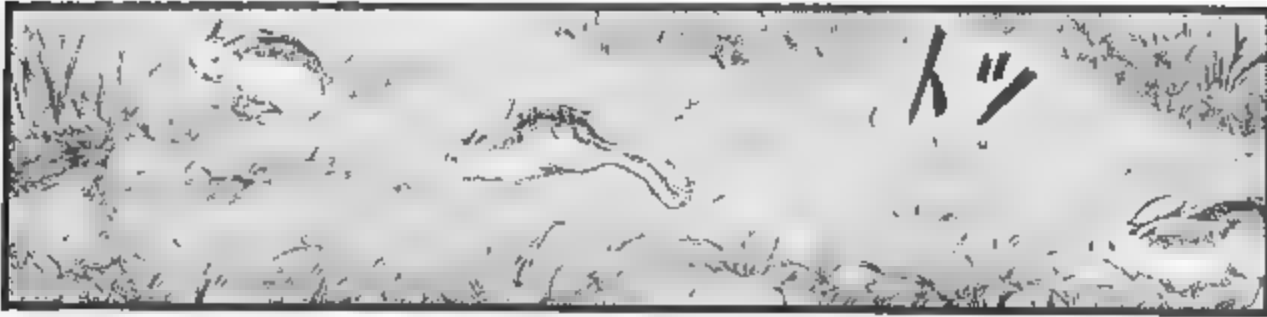
Wha... what are  
we gonna do. .?  
There's nothing  
left that he'll eat!

K?

110キツ

Camla Bat a  
man-eating dinosaur  
and there's a Grass  
Cougar

With not many  
out there  
They're sure to  
find us









Less than 8 hours to Both. We'll be passing the MH ahead of us in 3 hours



We've entered the Western Solar System. Do you have any course alterations for us, Commander?

If the information we have on Schaft is accurate, we're bound to engage the Seable mercenaries first and ask questions later...



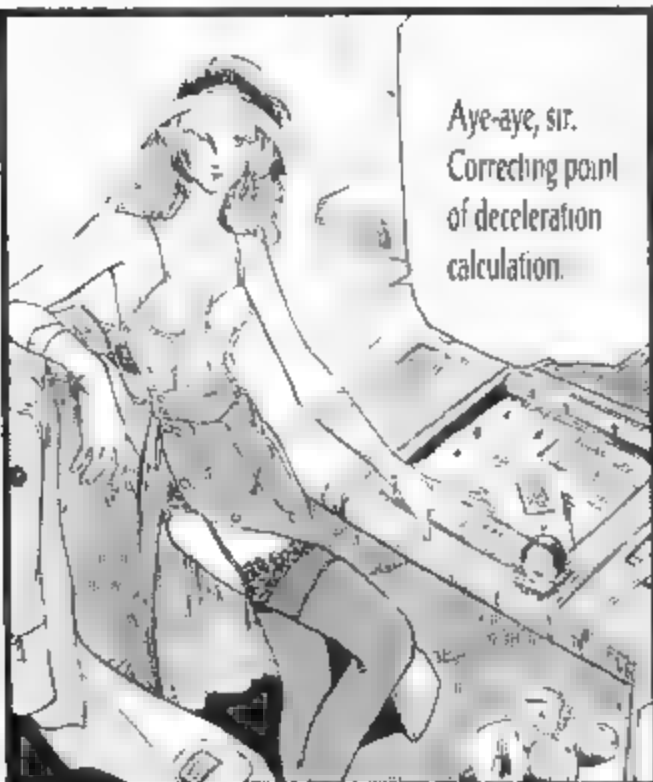
Intercept as fast as you can! Consider that an imperial order!



If we deploy a vanguard in an assault craft as soon as we enter the gravitational force, our elite troops should be able to cut about two hours off our arrival time.



Fleet Commander Lonn, sir! We have a problem with the time it's going to take slowing down in Both's gravitational force. According to my calculations...



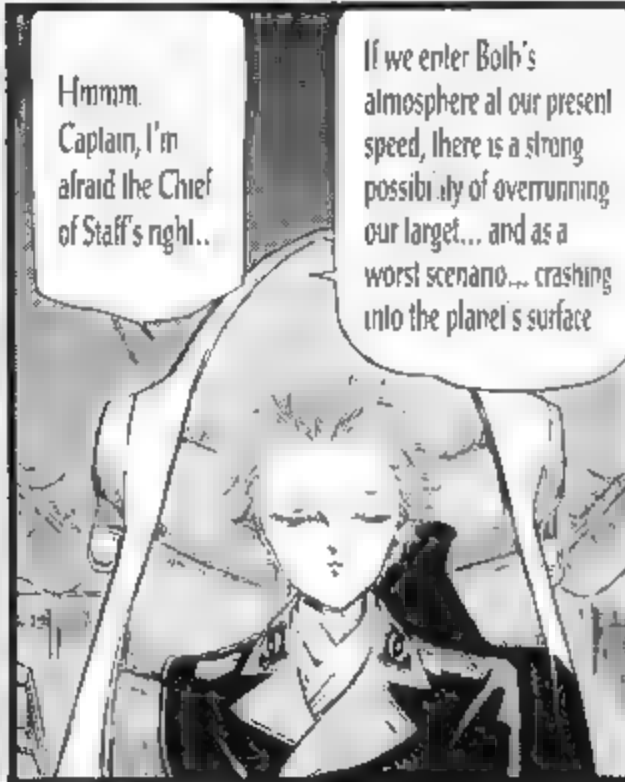
Aye-aye, sir. Correcting point of deceleration calculation.

Inform all combat troops immediately. Changing course, Lieutenant! We will be slowing down to combat speed as soon as we enter Both's gravitational force!



Hmmm. Captain, I'm afraid the Chief of Staff's right..

If we enter Both's atmosphere at our present speed, there is a strong possibility of overrunning our target... and as a worst scenario... crashing into the planet's surface



Get the jammer  
operating, Lieutenant!  
Do everything you can  
to keep us under wraps!

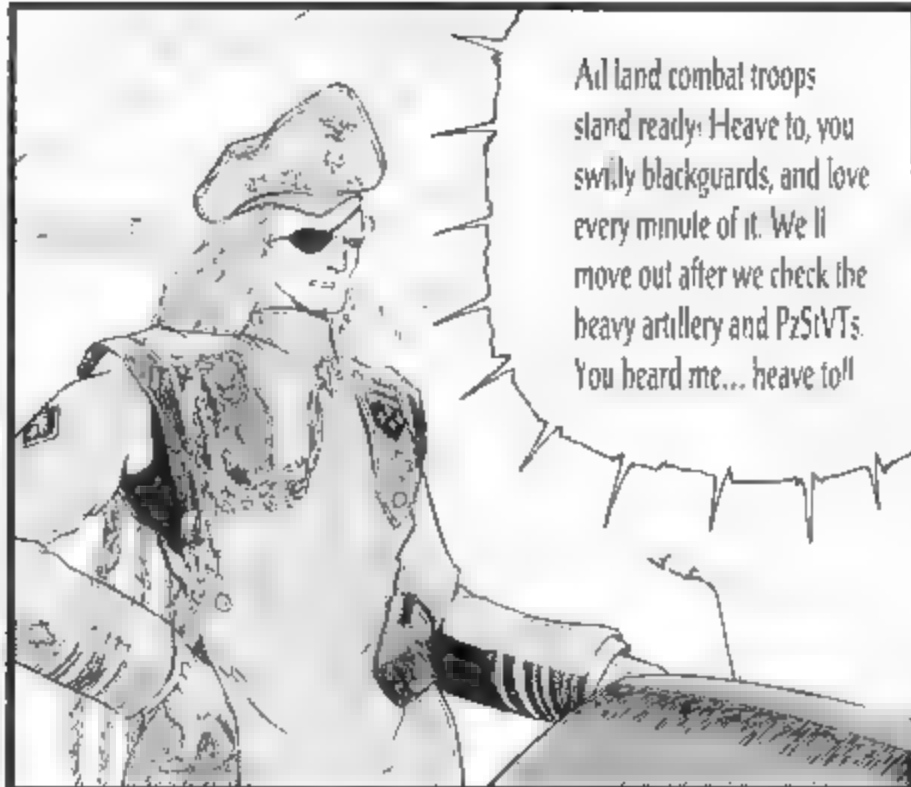


Captain! We'll  
be in station  
radar range in  
10 minutes!

Switch the jammer  
oscillation trigger  
operation over to me!  
I can zap all the  
incoming signals!



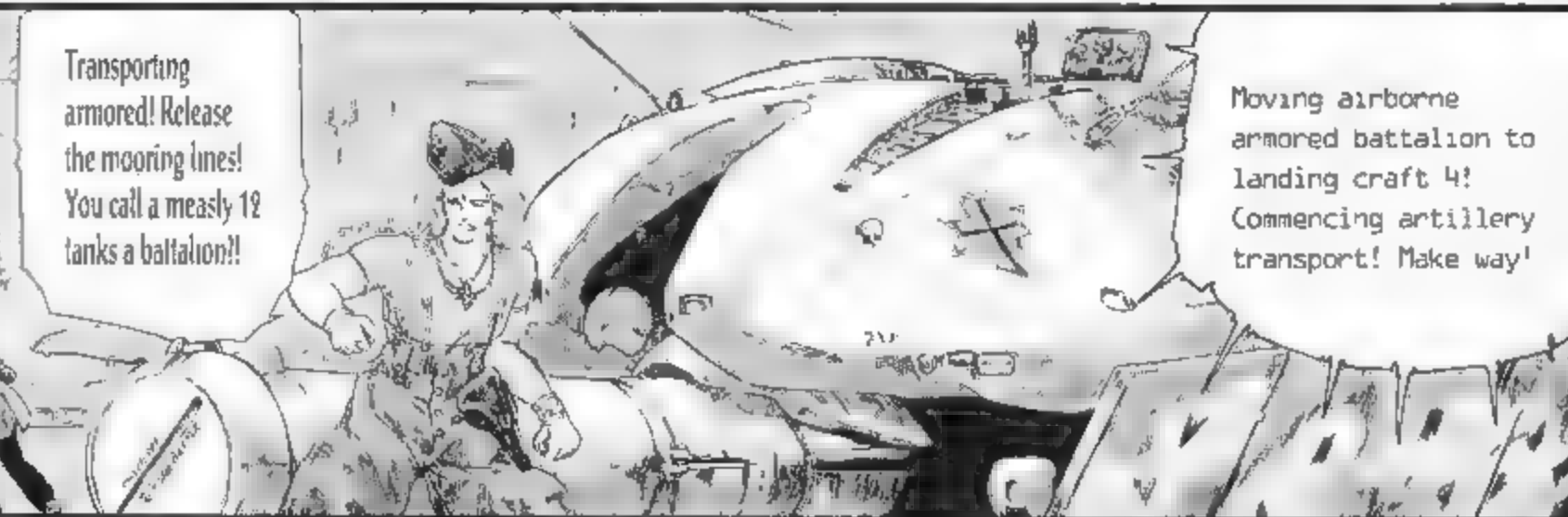
Aye-aye, sir! I'll  
dodge it within  
the adjustment  
range.



All land combat troops  
stand ready! Heave to, you  
swilly blackguards, and love  
every minute of it. We'll  
move out after we check the  
heavy artillery and PzStVTs.  
You heard me... heave to!!

That's all we had  
on duty, sir! We  
didn't have time  
to assemble the  
whole unit!

Transporting  
armored! Release  
the mooring lines!  
You call a measly 12  
tanks a battalion!!



Moving airborne  
armored battalion to  
landing craft 4!  
Commencing artillery  
transport! Make way!

What? A rebellion...  
in Vondseet?  
Those blood-thirsty  
commanding officers  
there are at it again!



Let's go on  
the double.  
Starting with the  
artillery corps!



The Scab forces are closing  
in on the location where His  
Majesty was sighted.  
It's up to you now, Aisha.  
Please hurry.



To be continued....

AKD Productions, Inc. 2004

|                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| IC 3230                           | Amaterasu requests the countries of Kallamity Courance to join the AKD, but following the lead of the Eldmore Empire, which boasts the planet's longest and most illustrious history, they ignore the request.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Grand Syon'an is killed by a Mirage Knight while trying to escape. Amaterasu establishes the Union of Galactic Kingdoms. Atropos teams up with Mirage Knight headliner Upand'a Raynu. | Amaterasu returns to Colus VI the sword he received from Colus III, signifying Colus VI as the true heir to the Colus dynasty. The citizens of Delta Belun leave the planet along with the Mirage Knights in "The Will" in search of Lachesis. The "god of night" has faded them.                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| IC 3234                           | Amaterasu launches a military invasion of Kallamity Courance, but is met with strong resistance by a unified defense force that has thoroughly studied his military strategy and local procedures.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | IC 3967                                                                                                                                                                               | Amaterasu entrusts all of his authority to his eldest son, Upand'a Raynu, a latima created by Dr. Balanche, and retires into seclusion. At the same time, F.U. Rogner and the other Mirage Knights are cloistered and sealed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| IC 3238                           | The Mirage Knights join the invasion of Kallamity Courance as the war boils down.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | IC 3968                                                                                                                                                                               | Empress Runka, a remnant of the Colus Dynasty's Meister family, gives birth to Daiz'na. Then dies at the hand of Amaterasu. Daiz'na disappears.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| IC 3239                           | Stant approaches Kallamity, which experiences violent upheavals in the planet's crust and chaotic magnetic fluctuations. Rescue and emigration from Kallamity is stepped up. Amaterasu boards the Knight of Gold and leads the entire Mirage Knight corps in an all-out attack on the Fulmore Empire. It is the last action anyone will take on this planet doomed to destruction by the approach of Stant. During the attack, KOCJ stalls on a shoal while crossing Lake Nibicoung, and just before Kallamity explodes, Amaterasu is ejected to safety, leaving the MHI Jan 1 Lachesis stranded on the Lake. In order to lessen the shock from the impending volcanic explosion, KOCJ uses the Buster Launcher to dig a 5000 kilometer crater in the planet's crust and drops a shock-resistant gelatin bomb into the Lake. However, nothing can save Lachesis from the explosion, as she and KOCJ are blown somewhere out on the dimensional edge. | IC 3998                                                                                                                                                                               | Amaterasu becomes deeply concerned over his aging fatimas and puts them to sleep. Galaxy MHI continues to switch over to the non-humanoid Ecloramuru fatimas, and humanoid fatimas rarely appear in public. The headliner population is also decreasing. In a galaxy controlled by a single, oppressive ruler, Upand'a, the number of mortar headads is also on the decrease, becoming superannuated and decrepit. This year marks the beginning of Upand'a's reign of terror. |
| IC 3330                           | The Battle of Kallamity is spectacularly concluded, and survivors from the defeated Kallamity forces move to the Planet of Graves, where they commence anti-Amaterasu resistance activities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | IC 4044                                                                                                                                                                               | Daiz'na Meister finds her way to Kastenpo on Both.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| IC 3333                           | Amaterasu, upon consent from the only non-AKD planet, Jumo, is enthroned as emperor of the Joker Galaxy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | IC 4050                                                                                                                                                                               | Daiz'na Meister meets Colus VI, who is working for the anti-Amaterasu resistance in Kastenpo.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| IC 3345                           | The LFD Dragon awakens.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | IC 4061                                                                                                                                                                               | After wandering aimlessly throughout the Galaxy, Colus VI is awakened to his headliner heritage after being shown the mortar headads that have been mustered for the resistance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| IC 3400-3900                      | Mortar headad manufacture is slowed by natural resource scarcity. The leader of Jumo, King Colus V, begins a large-scale program to improve his country's MHI force led by the Berims. Because the outcome of any battle is invariably decided by a clash of MHI, the anti-Amaterasu resistance forces scattered throughout the Galaxy assist in his efforts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | IC 4062                                                                                                                                                                               | Colus begins training for combat, and the many knights he meets seem also to be descendants of his ancestors: generations of headliners.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| IC 3910                           | The knights of the anti-Amaterasu resistance gather on Jumo. Amaterasu reveals plans to conquer Jumo.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | IC 4075                                                                                                                                                                               | Junchoon and Clotho are discovered, but Clotho remains sealed and will not awaken.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| IC 3952                           | Amaterasu launches his last expeditionary invasion and heads for Jumo. A messenger is dispatched from Both to Amaterasu. It is Atropos.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | IC 4076                                                                                                                                                                               | Colus VI meets Wey Rouath, possibly another headliner descendant.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| IC 3960                           | The heir apparent to the Colus Dynasty, Colus VI, escapes to Both with the help of Alenta, princess of Bawanka. The three royal families of the Colus Dynasty disband and scatter to the four corners of the Galaxy. The Black Knight Grand Syldman, in the employ of the Colus Dynasty, conceals Junchoon and Clotho deep in the thick forests of the continent of Bor shot.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | IC 4080                                                                                                                                                                               | Civil war breaks out on Jumo, and Colus VI takes command of the anti-Amaterasu resistance forces in the conflict.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | IC 4082                                                                                                                                                                               | An Amaterasu mortar headad, Wunderschalze, defects to Colus' side.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | IC 4088                                                                                                                                                                               | Headliners and fatimas who have been hiding throughout the Galaxy flock to Colus' side.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | IC 4090                                                                                                                                                                               | Colus liberates Both. After the devastation of AKD forces invading Kastenpo by an LFD Dragon inferno, the Upand'a regime gradually loses control of the situation, initiating the decline and fall of the AKD, but Amaterasu refuses to step in.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | IC 4093                                                                                                                                                                               | Civil war breaks out on Delta Belun.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | IC 4100                                                                                                                                                                               | The Floating Temple, the symbol of the AKD, is destroyed. Colus' Junchoon and Upand'a's Knight of Gold engage on the battlefield. Two tales hurry to the fray. Delta Belun is consumed in the quasar inferno of the LFD Dragon.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| IC 4101                           | Colus VI liberates the Galaxy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| IC 4103                           | Colus VI marries Daiz'na.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| IC 4255                           | Colus VI passes away at the age of 295.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| IC 4300                           | The mortar headads gradually fall into disrepair. The headliners also gradually disappear, some taking their fatimas with them, some alone. The era of war and destruction goes on, as the world continues its regression towards the primeva.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| [The Era of the The Will Galaxy]* |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| IC 5199                           | On an unknown planet, the Knight of Gold is transformed into a meteorite and crashes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| IC 6599                           | Lachesis awakens and with the Knight of Gold joins a space war with another civilization. In the aftermath, uncontrollable bursts of energy from KOCJ hurt them again and again into time gaps and lost abysses.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| IC 6787                           | In one planetary war, Lachesis is unable to activate the Knight of Gold, so this incomparable fatima fates commandeers a local cyborg weapon, called an Imper un, to continue the fight.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| IC 6800                           | Amaterasu builds the MHI Goal Mirage, also known as Magdal Chivalries.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| IC 6850                           | Amaterasu and Lachesis, each on their own, travel from planet to universe encountering new human species and life forms.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| IC 7199                           | Lachesis lands on a mechanized planet and repairs the Knight of Gold.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| IC 7281                           | Amaterasu converses with the Obeisk Monument, which seems to contain a memory of people from the Joker Galaxy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| IC 7343                           | Lachesis suddenly finds herself on Earth, in Poland during January 1945. She hides the Knight of Gold in the Baltic Sea and goes to fight in the Battle of Berlin. On 7 May she leaves the Divis on Nordlandic for France, then returns to the Baltic Sea and takes asleep.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| IC 7451                           | Lachesis awakens in the Earth year of 2187 and returns to Space.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| IC 7563                           | Lachesis transcends time to appear in the Joker Galaxy in IC 2043. She meets the 23-year-old prince of Grees, Amaterasu. After planting a memory of their encounter, she leaves the Galaxy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| IC 7777                           | Lachesis and Amaterasu are reunited on the emerald planet of Fortune and are married. They bear a daughter, Kallen, and the human species begins a new phase in its evolution.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

\*Time in the The Will era is measured in the years actually passed by Amaterasu, but in Joker time it is 5,670,000,000 years in length.

Chronology

[Last Millennia of the AD Era]

AD 4000 Iuno is discovered.  
Both is reclaimed and colonized.  
An alliance of imperia, families founds the super-empire Farus Die Kannarn.

AD 5000 Reign of the "Razing Empress".  
The Galaxy establishes all disciplines of pure science.  
The rise of intimidating warriors and powerful wizards.  
Invention of the most destructive weapon known to man: the buster launcher.

AD 6000 Height of interstellar exploration.  
Continuous intergalactic wars cause such devastation to existing races and cultures that the human species becomes incapable of retaining its historical legacy in tact.

AD 8000 A geophysical world of four solar systems begins to take form. Reclamation of planets take place on a galactic scale, as the deserts of Adler and Pestako, the closest planet to its sun, are made inhabitable.

AD 9000 Interstellar exploration reaches an impasse, and space adventurers return to their home planets.  
The influence of Farus Die Kannarn wanes, as new independent states rise.  
Buster control technology is perfected.  
Popularization of the external combustion "eziazer" engine, a technical spin-off from buster launcher know-how.

[The Joker Millennia]\*

IC 0001 Stabilization is achieved on the planets of the Galaxy's four solar systems, as interplanetary diplomatic agreements are negotiated and enacted, marking the beginning of the Joker Era. At this point in time, however, human civilization reaches its pinnacle and begins its descent. The Joker Galaxy enters an era of senescence and decline. A civilization that once advanced into the outer reaches of the universe, experimented with speeds exceeding light, and sought existence beyond the three dimensions is slowing down. The human race is now in a process of reverse evolution. From this point on, there will be no sign of significant historical change, even in millennium terms.

IC 0980 Birth of the mortar head: a battle machine modeled after the human anatomy and designed in the artistic style of science and engineering.

IC 2020 In the Kingdom of Grees on eastern Delta Belon, the second planet in the Eastern Solar System, the alto Amaterasu Dis Grand Grees Eygas V is born and destined to become the kingdom's fifth monarch.

IC 2026 Scientific genius Uranium Balance publishes his research on organic humanoid computer systems.

IC 2040 Emperor Amaterasu uses his exquisite beauty and charm along with his superior intellect to gain unwavering support from the people of Delta Belon's eastern bloc of countries.

IC 2087 Amaterasu and Litra are married. Litra would reach adulthood at the young age of 150, equivalent to 25 years of age in earthly time. On the average, humans of the Joker Galaxy live to the age of 100 years.

IC 2135 Amaterasu makes improvements in the external combustion engine used throughout the Galaxy to generate heavy energy.

IC 2200 The beginning of a century of frequent international disputes and military aggression, promoted in part by the mortar head's ability to minimize casualties and destruction of property in the process of territorial expansion.

IC 2310 A data processor greatly improving the control of mortar heads is developed by the mad scientist Lithium Balance. It is called the "latima," an artificial life-form physiologically identical to human beings.

IC 2324 Amaterasu is enthroned as the ruler of Grees at the age of 304. Over a thirty-year period he has contributed much to the cause of international peace among the countries of Delta Belon.

IC 2397 Despite his 377 years, Amaterasu has remarkably not aged significantly since reaching adulthood.

IC 2400 Amaterasu's Eastern Solar System and the Northern Solar System, which is ruled by large and powerful countries, attain a state of relatively peaceful coexistence, while the smaller countries scattered throughout the Southern and Western Solar Systems remain in political turmoil. It is a time of mass production of both mortar heads and latimas.

IC 2629 Amaterasu makes the acquaintance of the scientific genius Chrome Ballanche.

IC 2810 Amaterasu spends ten years recruiting a corps of super or headliners to act as his imperial guard and names them the Mirage Knights.

IC 2817 Amaterasu's imperial guards are organized into an order of knights known as the First Eastern Mirage Corps, which is given command of the all the imperial armed forces, and charged with employing their mortar heads in quelling international military incidents.

IC 2875 Amaterasu unites the ten eastern countries surrounding the Kingdom of Grees. Similarly, in the Southern Solar System, Colus II ruler of the super power on the planet Iuno forms the kingdoms on his borders into the Colus Dynasty. Colus III is born.

IC 2878 Amaterasu is appointed planetary president of Delta Belon.

IC 2899 Amaterasu unites Delta Belon into an organization called Amaterasu Kingdom Deremes (hereafter AKD). The report of this action is greeted with surprise and apprehension throughout the Galaxy.

IC 2900 Dr. Ballanche completes the AKD flagship battle cruiser Bell Crear.

IC 2900 A scarcity of natural resources in the Galaxy reaches critical proportion, and some synthetic materials that have existed for thousands of years begin to transform or deteriorate. The Kalamity Godarce, the second planet in the Northern Solar System, begins to transform under the influence of its own planetary reclamation activities. Amaterasu is 880 years old.

IC 2955 Completion of Amaterasu's airborne palace, the

Floating Temple, an island 2.5 kilometers across, over 3000 meters in the atmosphere above the planet.

IC 2987 One of the Galaxy's most authoritative scientists, Dr. Ballanche, decides that a fatima debut will not be held for Atropus, one of his "three fates of destiny," and allows her to escape.

IC 2988 Dr. Ballanche's final two fatimas, Lachesis and Clotho, come of age. Amaterasu acquires Lachesis, while Clotho is taken into the care of Iuno's King Colus III.

IC 2989 Three leading elite mortar heads, called LED Mirages, join the forces of the Colus Dynasty against neighboring aggressor, Hagooda. MI-I meister Ladios Sopp is entrusted with the jeweled sword of the Colus Royal Family, and the royal family's MI-I luncheon is sealed shut with Clotho inside.

IC 2992 Atropus begins 150 years of seclusion with an infant LED Dragon.

IC 2994 Magda and Depre are born in the Republic of Halthuba in the Western Solar System.

IC 3007 The LED Mirage, the Amaterasu's Knight of Gaid are exhibited before the Galaxy Second phase of the Mirage Knights.

IC 3009 Completion of the heavy MI-I Jagd Mirage known as the "monster of the Mirage Knights" due to its dual buster canon design.

IC 3010 The "Majestic Stand" begins, and the Galaxy is thrown into greater political turbulence than it has ever experienced.

IC 3079 Princess Magdal is crowned ruler of the Holy Led A-Tol Empire.

IC 3159 Amaterasu suddenly launches a military attack on the Rent Republic of the neighboring planet of Adler.

IC 3162 Adler is incorporated into the AKD and becomes Amaterasu's base of military operations, as well as the basic galactic expeditionary base.

IC 3180 Amaterasu begins construction of the Galaxy's largest space vessel, The Will.

IC 3185 Construction of The Will is completed, and enthusiasm is heightened among the people over galactic unification. Amaterasu is 1,05 years old.

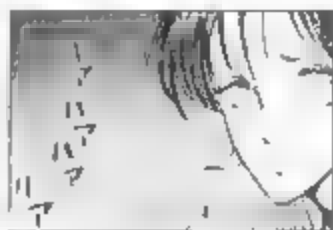
IC 3199 Amaterasu launches an invasion of Both in the Western Solar System. Many of the planet's residents welcome the invasion as the arrival of political stability to a chaotic situation that has continued since the beginning of the Majestic Stand, so Both is quickly incorporated into the AKD. However, the region of Kaslenpo on the continent of Canann for some reason is able to retain its former status as a free and autonomous district, and only the Holy Led A-Tol Empire is granted sovereignty.

IC 3225 The moving solar system of Stan, with a 1500-year orbit, approaches the Joker Galaxy, and it is predicted that Stan will increase the instability of the Galaxy already caused by mineral resource depletion.

\*Note: all dates in years are null and void, as all time processes cease in the Joker Galaxy.



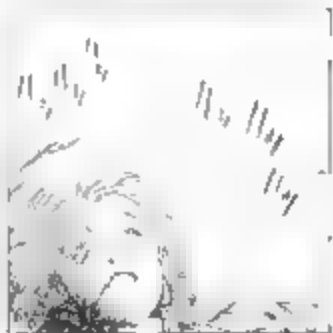
#16/50p



#16/47p



#17/72p



**ハアハア、ハッハッ**  
Haah-haah, Haht-haht  
(Pant-pant)

Out of breathe heavy  
breathing, having trouble  
breathing.

#16/4p



**カンカンカン**  
Kahn-kahn-kahn  
(Clank, Clang)

Sound of hard soled shoes on  
a ho low meta lic surface

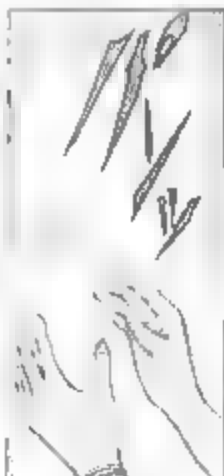
#16/65p



**トットット**  
Toht-toht-toht

Landing on or running over  
unpaved dirt.

#15/67p



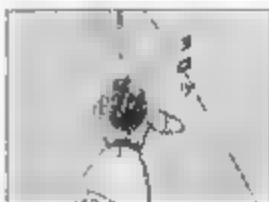
**パンッ**  
Pahnt  
(Slap, Clap, Smack)  
The sound of two hands  
clapping.

#16/53p



**ギョッ**  
Gyut  
Expression of something being  
squeezed tightly

#16/68p



**ヨロツ**  
Yohroht  
About to col apse from  
exhaustion staggering

#15/34p



**グシャッ**  
Guhshah (Splat)  
Sound of an object rupturing  
on impact.

#15/71p



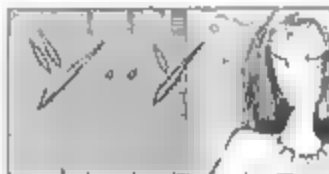
**パチッ**  
Pahchit  
Sounds of  
tastemay  
meta caps  
etc

#15/25p



**コト**  
Kohloht  
Sound of  
placing an  
object on a  
table or  
counter

#15/52p



**シーン**  
Sheeen  
Silence, all of sudden becoming  
sient a pregnant pause

#17/25p



**わっはっはっ**  
Wahl-hal-hat  
Boisterous, healthy laughter

#17/26p



**ニコニコ**  
Nihkoh-nihkoh  
Smiling face or faint smile

#17/65p



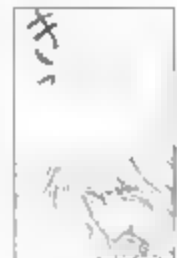
**ワーツ**  
Waah (Hooray, Yea)  
Sound of cheering.

#15/52p



**ギロツ**  
Gihroht  
Sharp, penetrating glare

#15/7p



**きつ**  
Kint  
Staring some  
one down  
intensely  
The evil eye

#16/25p



**ぎく**  
Gihkuh  
(Gulp)  
Expression of  
guilt or dreaded  
surprise

## ●SUEZHOV EXPRESSION

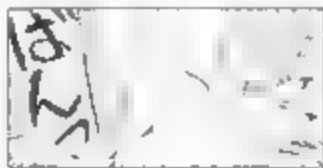
#16/56p



**ベーろベーろ、ベーツ**  
Behloh-behloh, Behh

The way some can color  
their faces to ridicule others  
surreptitiously, especially  
the highly scornful eye  
a kanacron combination  
with the class a most  
universal 'beh' sticking  
out the tongue in protest

#15/12p



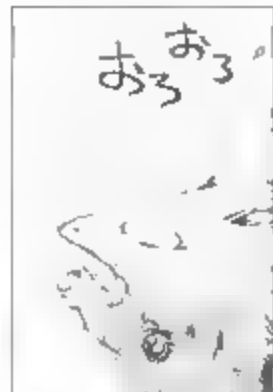
**ばんっ**  
Bahnt (Whap, Bang)  
Hitting with all one's might

#15/12p



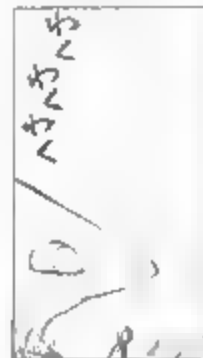
**くんくん**  
Kuhn-kuhn (Sniff)  
Frying hard to pick up a  
very weak scent

#15/11p



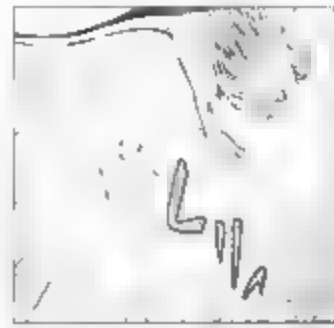
**おろおろ**  
Ohroh-ohroh  
Stumbling around in a state of  
panic and confusion.

#15/6p



**わくわく**  
Wahkuh-wahkuh  
A near-thumping from  
excitement

#15/11p



**くりっ**  
Kurhit  
Something flying, Raucous  
Rolling the eyes.

# Special Effects

Five Star Stories is a long running anime series that has been a staple of the anime world for decades. It is a classic example of the "shounen" genre, featuring a young hero who grows up and becomes a powerful warrior. The series is known for its high quality animation and its focus on action and adventure. It is a must-watch for any anime fan.

#16/38p



**グッ**  
Guhwhat  
Heavy object being suspended  
and Reverberation

**ビュッ、ビツ**  
Byuht, Biht (Bweee)  
Sound of an object cutting the  
air at tremendous speed.

**バツ**  
Bant (Flap)  
Quick, agile movement.  
Expression of objects moving  
through the air in rapid  
succession.

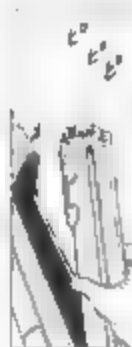
**ボ、ボボツ**  
Boht, Buh-boht  
(Fwoom)  
The sound of a flammable  
material, like fuel or natural  
gas, bursting into flames, then  
immediately dying out.

#15/41p



**ドーン**  
Doh-duhnn  
(Ba-dooom)  
Explosion in the distance with  
echo

#17/46p



#16/25p

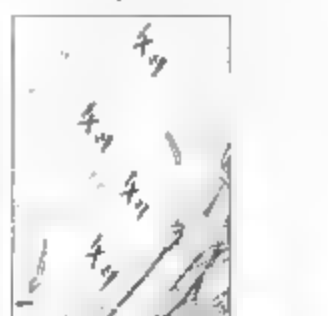


#15/66p



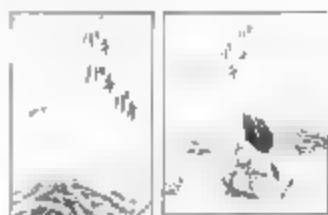
**カチャカチャ**  
Kahcha-kahcha  
(Squreeeek)  
Straining glass, ceramic, metal,  
etc. Any similar shrill sound.

#16/47p



**チツチツチツ**  
Chht-chht-chht-  
chht (Rrrzztlt)  
Electrical sound

#15/22p



**パチパチ**  
Pahchi-pahchi  
(Snap-crackle-pop)  
Fire burning in a fireproof  
safe or fireproof container

#15/26p



**ゴゴゴゴ**  
Goroh-goroh-goroh  
Sound of a machine  
running

#15/13p



#15/13p



**ザッ、ザッ**  
Zah, Zah-zah  
Kicking up sand or dirt while  
running

#17/58p



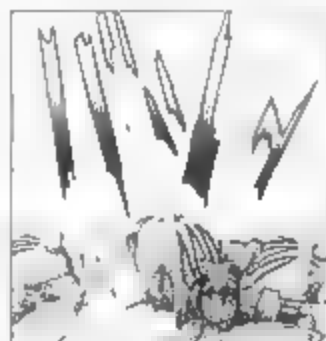
**キイイイ**  
Keeeee  
(Dweeee, Feeeeee)  
Whine of a high speed engine  
or a compression

#16/40p



**バキッ**  
Bahkiht (Crash)  
Sound of something breaking  
instantaneously.

#16/15p



**バシュ**  
Bahshuht  
(Whoosh, Bweee)  
Non explosive discharge  
Expression of speed

#17/57p



**フィフィイン**  
Feeeen, Feeeeee  
(Braaaaown)  
Sound of a highly tuned vehicle  
like a drag, at top speed

#16/30p



#16/32p



**カタカタ**  
Kahtah-kahtah  
(Clank-clank)  
Sound of objects striking one  
another or shaking due to  
vibration

**ジュン**  
Juhn  
(Sizzle, Fshsht)  
Raining metal, cool liquid  
sprayed on overheated metal

#17/28p



**ゴゴゴゴ**  
Gogogogogo  
(Rhuuuuum)  
Sound of a mortal beast or space  
craft traveling at normal speed

**ヒュヒュヒュ**  
Hyu-hyu-hyu  
(Wheeee, Wooo)  
High speed engine. Vehicle cutting  
through the wind.

# The Five Star Stories VII



**M**amoru Nagano is a storyteller, whose narrative style arose strangely enough from his background in the design of character and robot animation for television. The unique characters and mechanical devices that flow out of Mamoru's pen are always in tune with the latest mode, which is why they always hit the market in such sensational fashion. His peculiar touch with the pen stems technically from a blend of traditional Japanese ink brush techniques and whatever is happening on the graphic art scene at any particular time, while compositionally his work stems from various futuristic tendencies. The following is a chronological account of Mamoru's career.

A list comic writer, musician, designer, and Macintosh recluse, Mamoru Nagano was born in the city of Maizuru, Kyoto Prefecture in January 1960. In 1984 he made his animation debut as the character designer of the TV cartoon *I Leavy Metal I Can*. His first comic, *Fool for the City*, was published in *Newtype* magazine in 1985, followed by *Five Star Stories* serial, which began in 1986. Five stories were completed by 2000, then in spring 2001, Story #6 was begun. *FS4* was first published in paperback by Kadokawa, which released 11 volumes with a total sales of 7 million copies, marking it as a popular long seller among Japanese comic fans. The author's latest work is another animated serial entitled *Brain-Powered*. Much of his work is under copyright of and being published by his own company, TOYSPRESS, Inc.

## The Five Star Stories #16

4 printing November 2001

Written and Illustrated by  
**Mamoru Nagano**

Translated by  
**John Wisnom**

Artwork by  
**Ryoetsu Sato**

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## A Vast Tale Promising to Straddle the Centuries

### Five Star Stories Vols. IX-X

**I**n an espionage mission to For Chibum in the U-thu Republic on the planet Roth, swordsmen sage Douglas Kaen is detected by a very alert Michael Lester, who blocks the spy's escape and all but obliterates Kaen's fatima Auxo. Kaen flees to an anti-government guerrilla camp at the mining village of Tyxaligh and is pursued by Republic headliner Maryu Skat. In his powerful mortar headdress, the Zakker hiding in for Auxo as Kaen's partner on his Schepeltor is none other than Lachesis' sister Atropos, who had been posing as the leader of the guerrillas. After defeating Skat, Atropos pledges to spend the rest of her life trying to realize a fatima's full potential free

of legally imposed physical and mental restraints, and after the battle disappears. Meanwhile, Kaen's Auxo is brought back from the dead by Chrome Ballanche's protegee Fisen Corks, with her memory miraculously intact and is reunited with Kaen.



### Five Star Stories Vols. XI-XII

**A**fter a flashback to the time when Lachesis Sopp and Chrome Ballanche first met and their encounter with swordsmen sage Dimos Fiahtrak, the stories turned to the Kingdom of Taika, doomed to war and tragedy for thousands of years in another universe, but promised by Amaterasu that he would send his daughter to end the violence. Colus Dis Vice then made a brief appearance, before we were swept off to Delta Belu and Amaterasu's woes concerning his mother, who also paid a visit to Lachesis. Volume XI then ended with Sopp and Ballanche at their last meeting before the good doctor's death. Back to Kastenpo on the planet Roth. If the Bishop isn't satisfied with the twenty-eight previous opportunities to experiment in military mayhem, looking for one of the Galaxy's Big Three to "test", he has the ninja spy kidnap

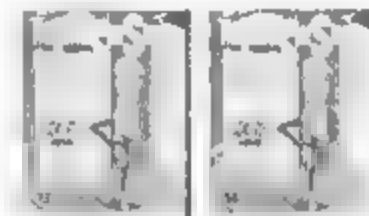
Asha Codante's fatima to lure Mirage Knight #2 into the battlefield. Kibarcan's Cardinal Mase van Reyback decides to shed his holier-than-thou attitude and bring the Bang Doll. As for the attempt by Her's monitoring station to escape with newly discovered mortar headdress data, a royally P.O.'d Thunder Dragon puts on a spectacular aerial demonstration in a statement to the Galaxy that nobody is to use the unrestricted lawless region of Kastenpo as a weapons testing ground ever again.



### Five Star Stories Vols. XIII-XIV

**T**he Emperor of Delta Belu decides to take a leave of absence to visit Kastenpo on the planet Roth. On the bus ride, Sopp hears the well-known folktale of the "Water Dragon," in which a young princess gives up her most treasured possession to save her kingdom from an army of devils. Then the bus is attacked by a secret mission led by Diver Dr-Barrow in search of the dying LED Dragon, and Sopp is mortally wounded. Meanwhile, back in Delta Belu at the Floating Temple, its commander-in-chief's departure has thrown the Palace into confusion with headliners and divers running amok and safety barriers of all kinds breaking apart. However, Lachesis, with a little help from Douglas Kaen and the

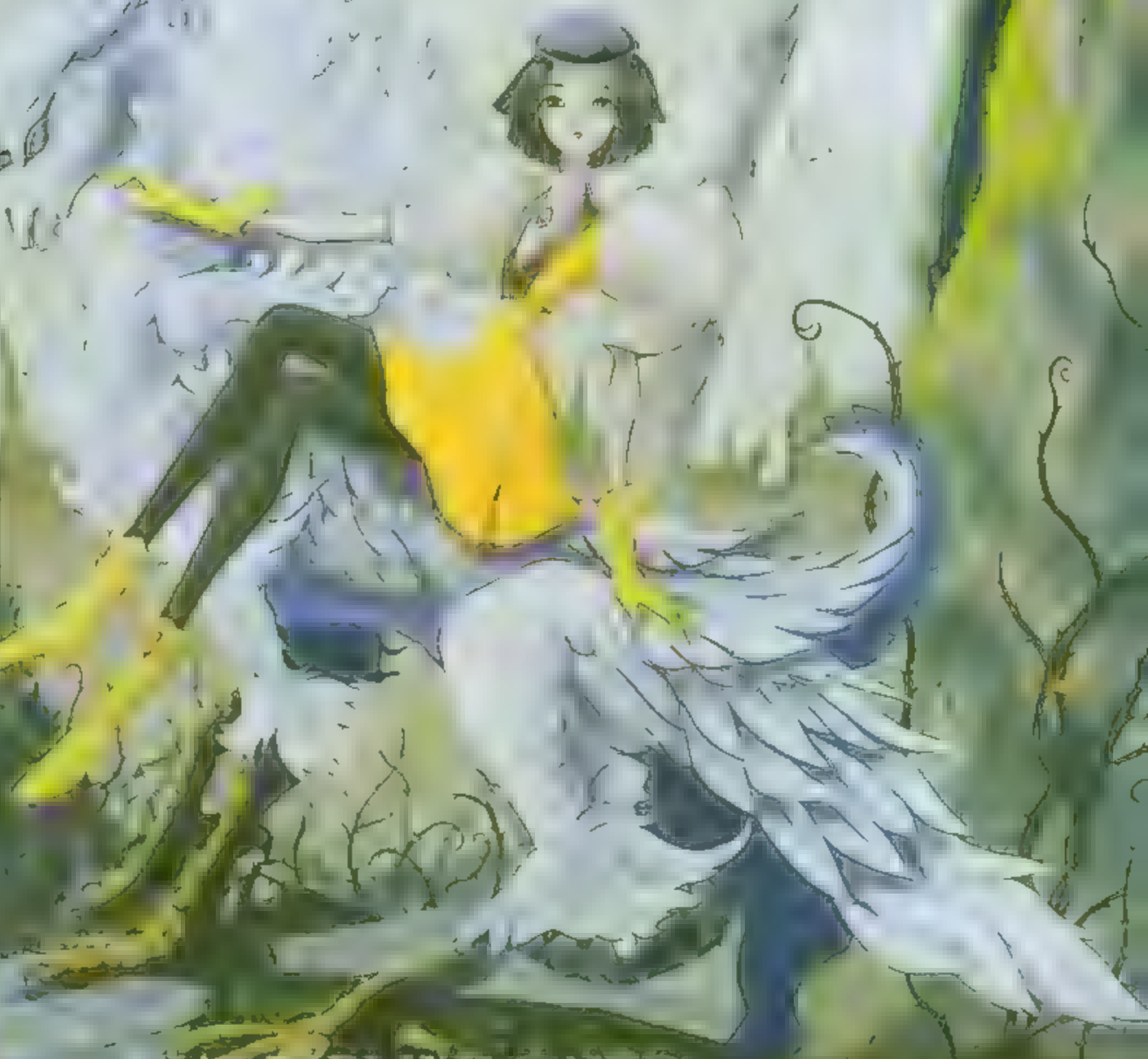
Golden Dragon, proves to all her ability to rule in Amaterasu's absence. Lachesis concludes the cause of the uproar to be some physical disruption at Amaterasu's end. So she sends the only available headliner, Joker knight par excellence Schaft at the helm of the virgin Jaed Mirage with even nutter Pallenon in the fatima cockpit, to Kastenpo for to check it out.



### Warning:

Those readers who cannot for reasons physical, psychological or otherwise endure reading comics from right to left should seriously consider not purchasing this book and return it to the shelf.

# The Five Star Stories



17

YAMORI NAGANO

# The Five Star Stories



*Written & Illustrated by*  
**MAMORU NAGANO**

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## Dedicated to Fatimas Everywhere



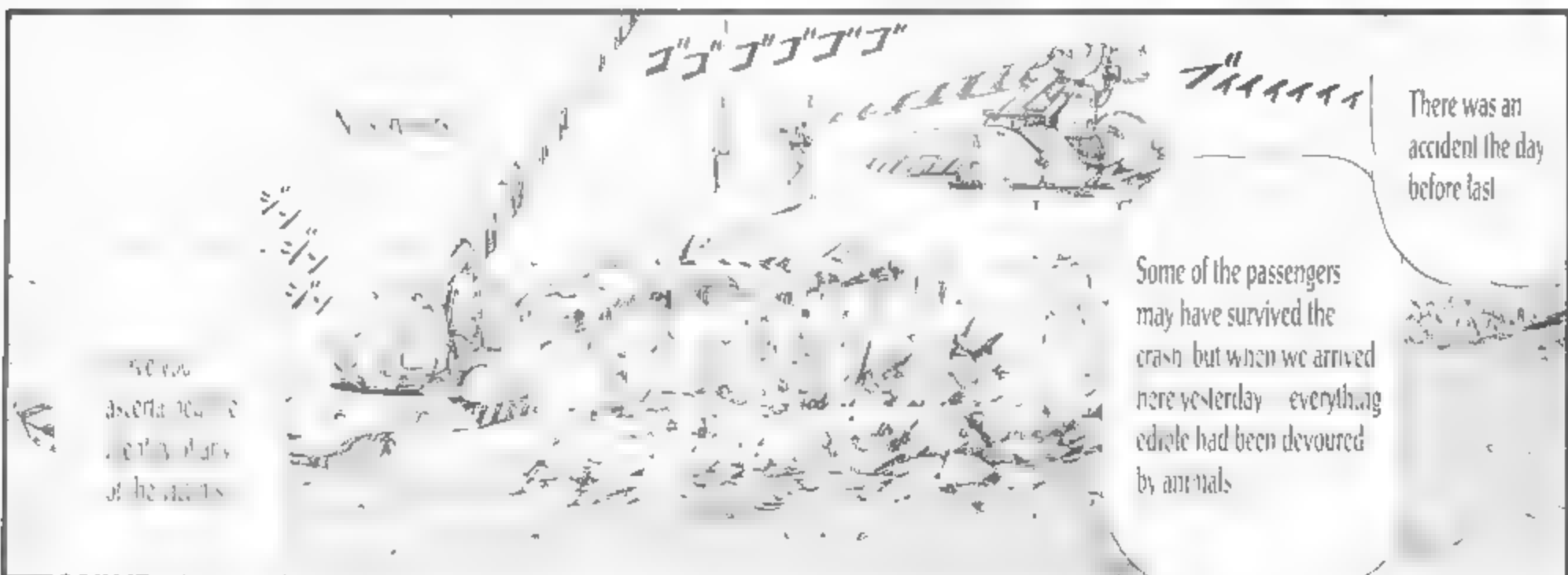
his is a tale of the god of light, Amaterasu, and his wife Lachesis, who emerged victorious from an era of wars that raged throughout four solar systems. It will also tell of the many bold and daring headliners who battled courageously during those times, some victorious, some not, but always in the name of chivalry.

# The Five Star Stories

## VII-3



isha Codante is also on the move in the effort to rescue Ladios Sopp, stopping to examine the scene of the shuttle crash, where Sopp was last seen. In the Di-Barrow camp, Braford is given another chance to track down the dragon nymph, leaving his Kyo behind to continue freaking out. A local anti-Para-Guild businesswomen appears to pay her respects to Barrow, hoping to nail down the market in his diver-power line of "medicinal" products after his (actually Bosjathfort's) impending rejuvenation. Lonn's AKD rescue mission arrives to the surprise of the Barrow camp, which hasn't a clue that it was Sopp (Amaterasu) whom Braford shot to death and who now is miraculously with the nymph and some mysterious "headdliner." A limited ground war ensues under an AKD decision not to deploy its mortarheadds until they can locate Sopp. The unsuspecting Barrow camp is again perplexed by the tactic, but answers the challenge in kind. What follows is fun and games in the AKD trenches



There was an accident the day before last

Some of the passengers may have survived the crash but when we arrived here yesterday everything edible had been devoured by animals

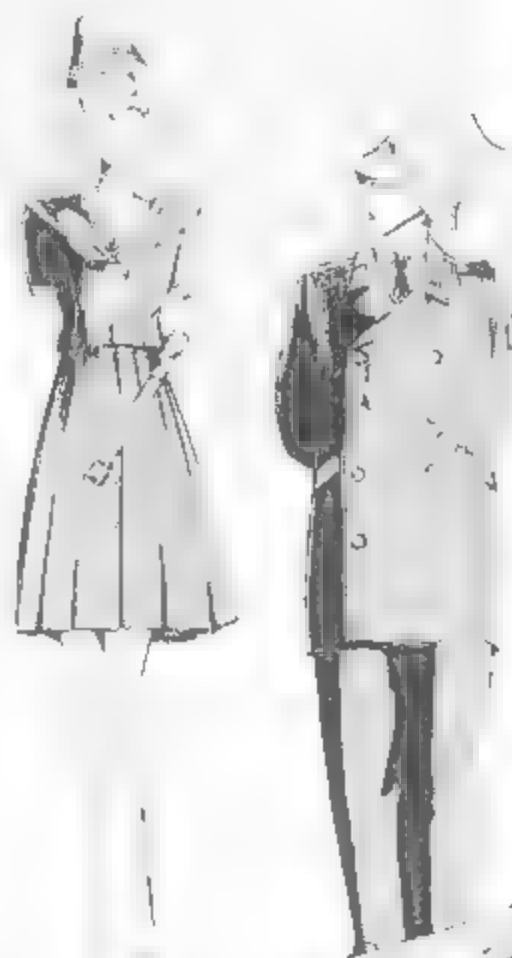
ト"ゴ"ゴ"ゴ"ゴ"ゴ"  
カ"カ"カ"カ"カ"



11  
11  
11  
11  
11

新

47.2



Thanks ..  
Sorry to  
bother you....

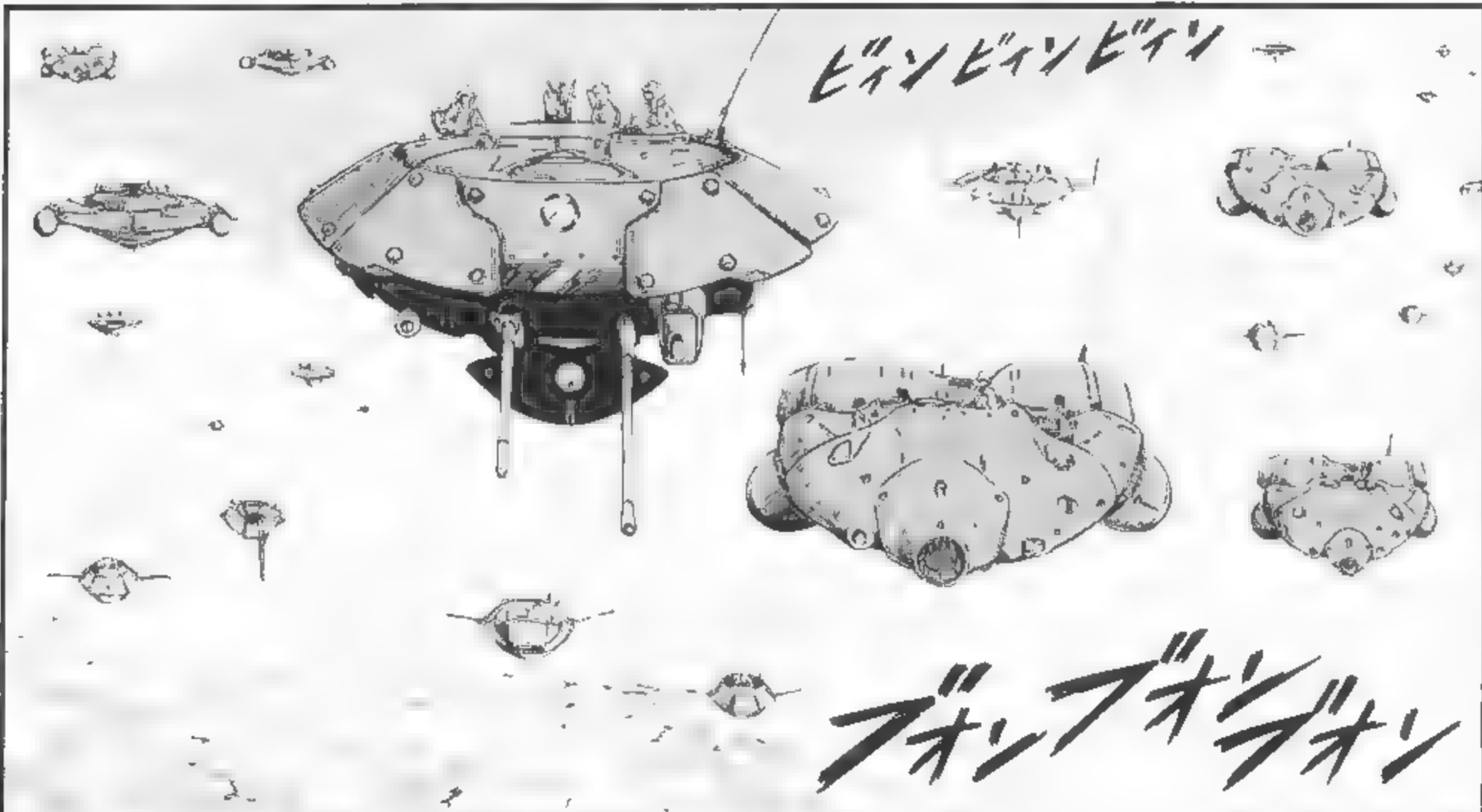
POLICE

ルッ  
~~~~~

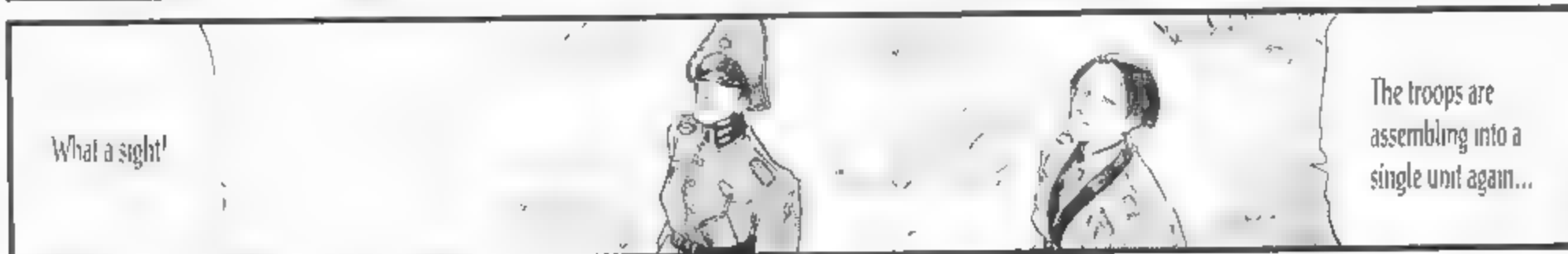
1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)
2. *Chlorophyll b* (Chl *b*)
3. *Chlorophyll c* (Chl *c*)
4. *Chlorophyll d* (Chl *d*)
5. *Chlorophyll e* (Chl *e*)

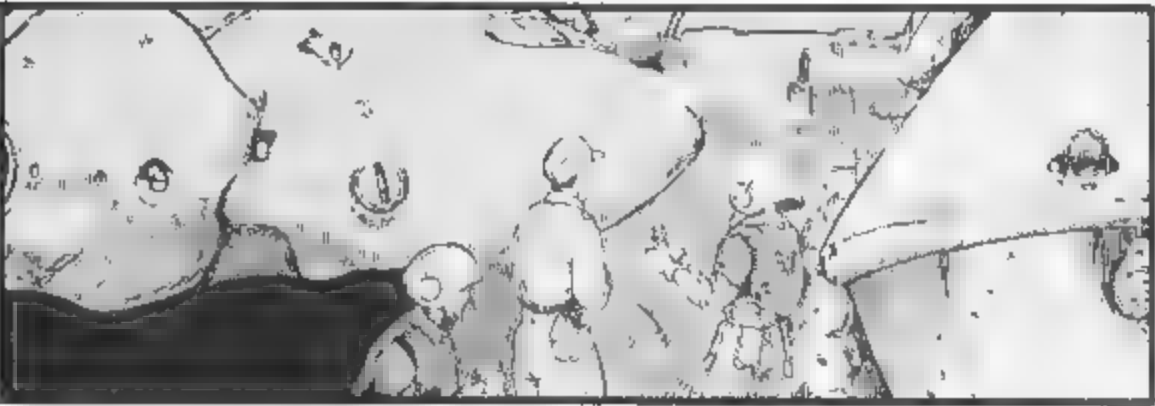







*Oscar Wilde, me thinks

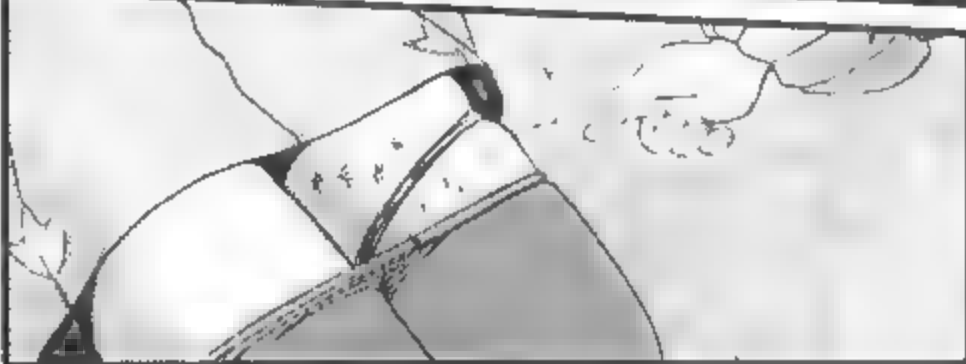
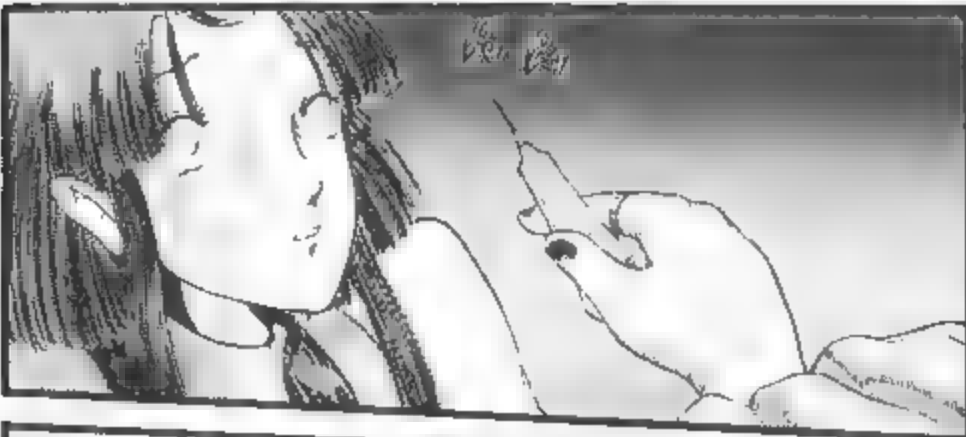




MDMA
3,4-Methylenedioxyamphetamine has been used by earthlings as a weight reduction drug and by the military as a truth serum. Today it is also being used in calming the fears of terminal cancer patients. The substance, which causes feelings of exhilaration and hunger satiation, was during the mid-1980s being legally sold on the street under the name "Ecstasy." Today, non-subscription use has been outlawed together with LSD.







C'mon! I haven't got all day! You're worried about your master finding out you used your legs...

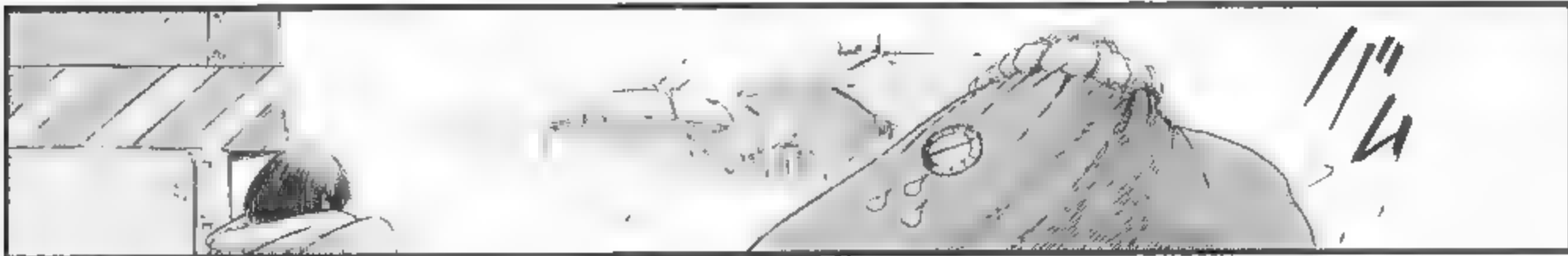


Oh, there you are...



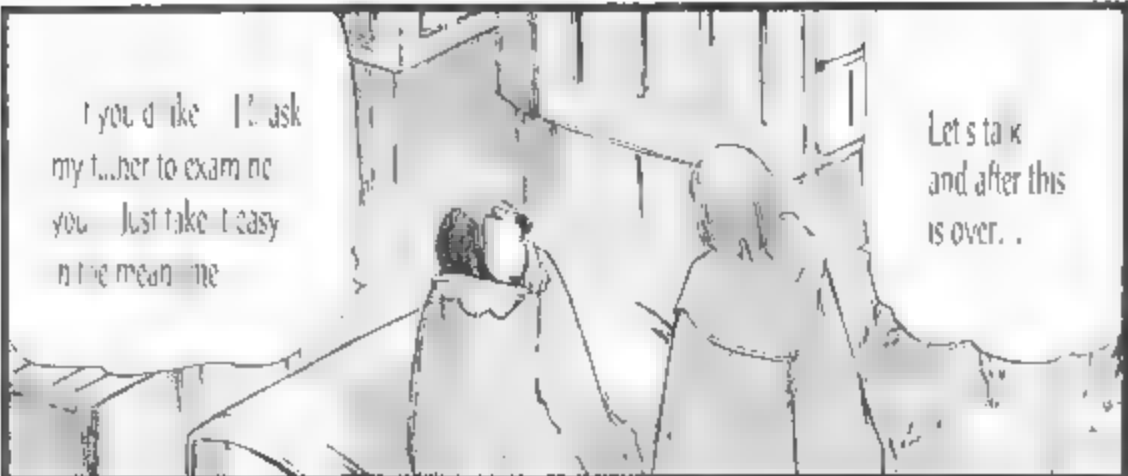
Our meister's did a pretty good job, too... Would you do us a favor and check the tuning?

We used some of our spare parts to repair your MH.





Were
warned
about you



If you'd like I'll ask
my teacher to examine
you. Just take it easy
in the meantime.

Let's talk
and after this
is over...



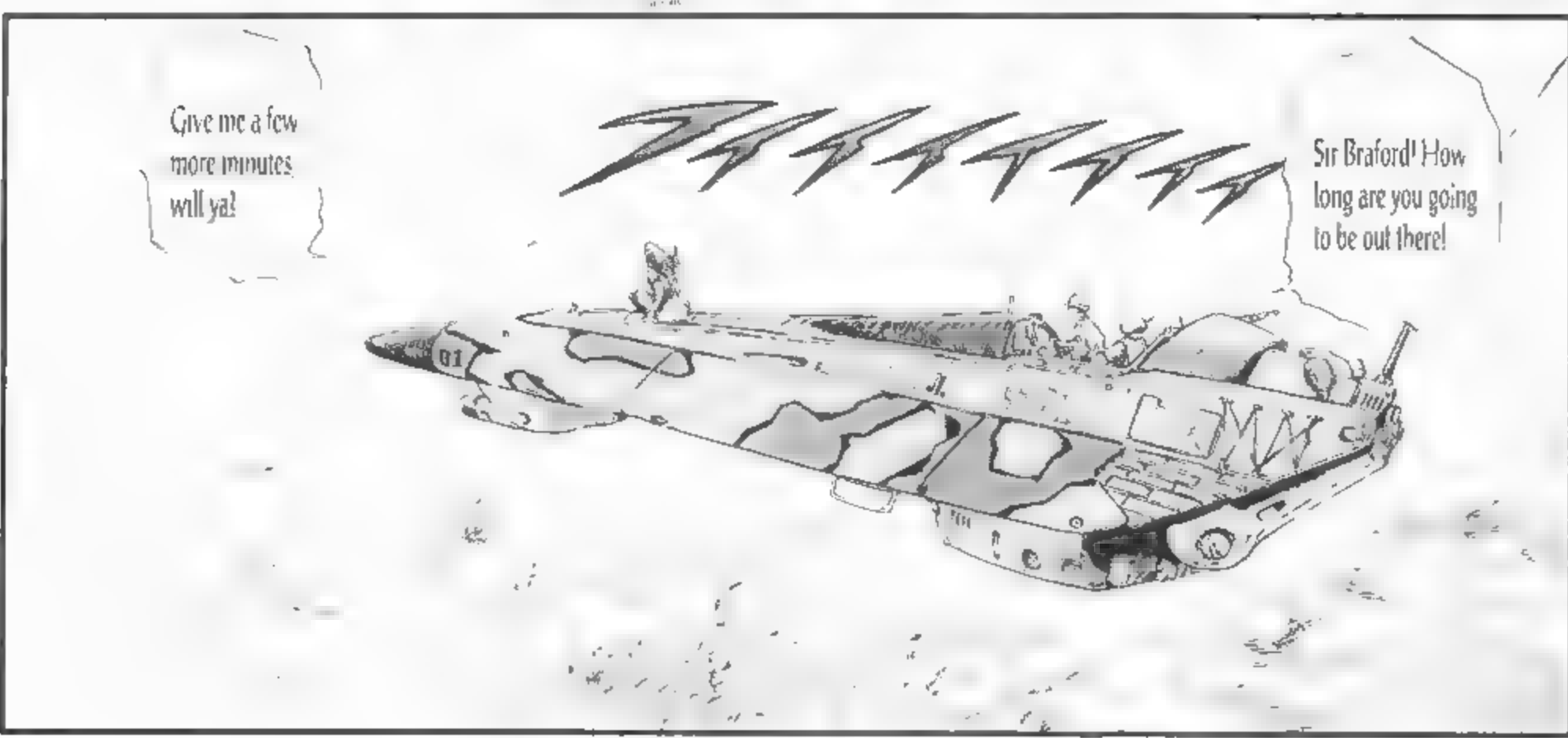
It's too late... There's...
nothing... anyone...
can do... now.



the most
important thing...
in my life...

Defeating my sister in battle
I betrayed





Pretty far...
up ahead...

That hawk! It
dropped its prey!
What's goin' on
out there?

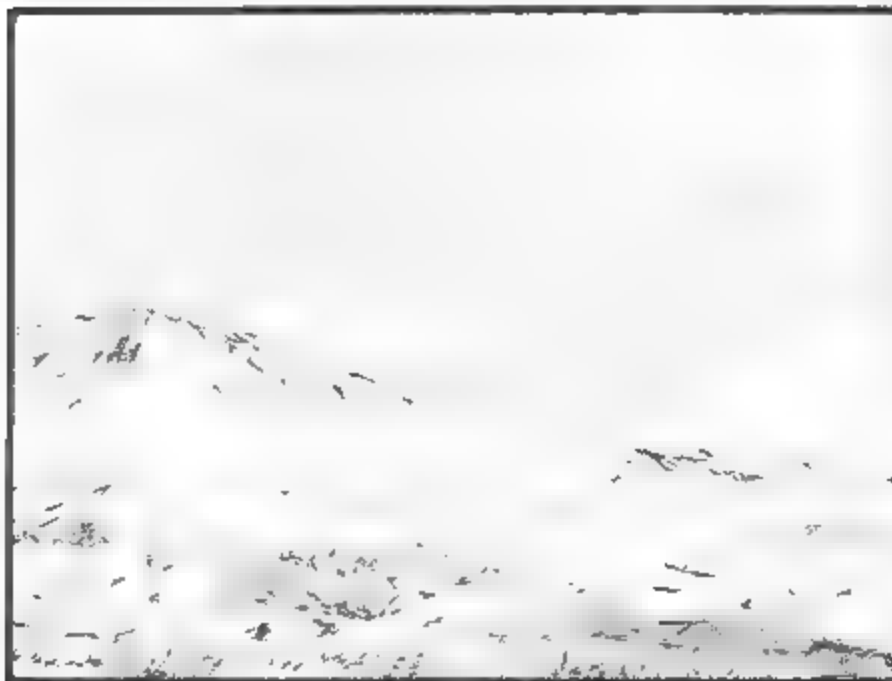
Thanks for the
ride! If anything
happens, report it
for me, will ya?

Sir Braford!

If he botches
the job again...

Sir Braford
has spotted
something!

Master.



Beyond the marshes
there's got to be a
lava formation
somewhere

Hawks don't just
go around droppin'
their prey for the
hell of it



My eyes are gonna
do the work!

キッ!

This time...
dammit!



A shooting star?

What was
that...?



Here's what Bradford is seeing

With that kind of
sophistication, our
radar hasn't picked
them up yet!

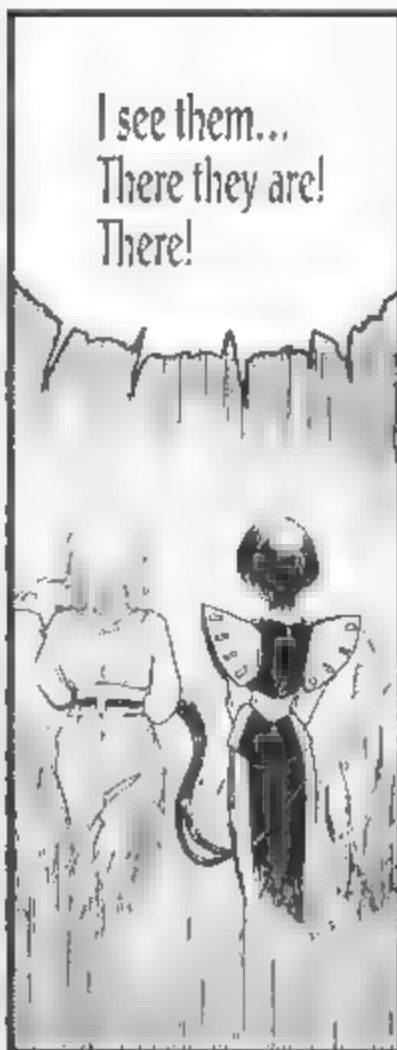
Military spacecraft...
hitting the atmosphere
with a force so sudden
as to cause it to spark
and flame...

Atmospheric
friction...
Plasma flame
Heat resistant
barrier!!





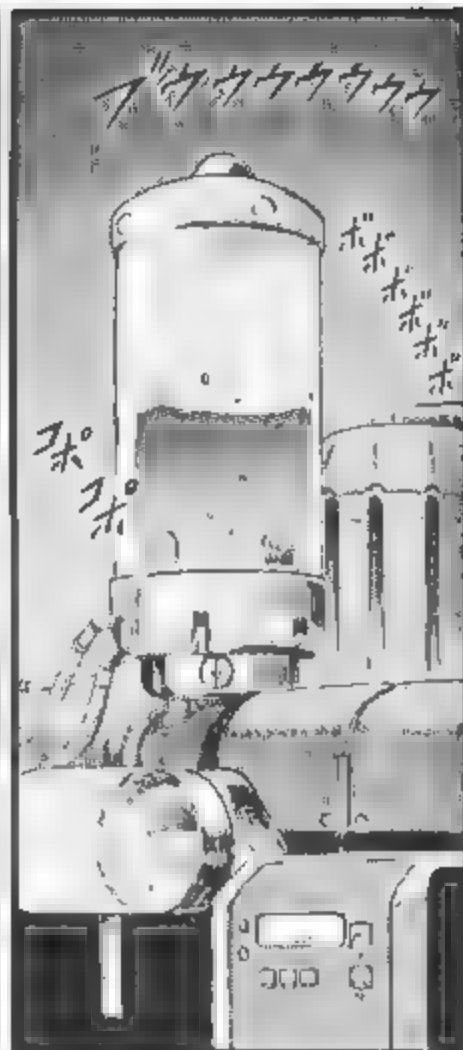
Aaaarrggghh!



I see them...
There they are!
There!



Yeeess...
Oh yees...



!!



Just when we succeeded
in mummifying you to
conserve your physical
capacities.

You're overdoing it,
Your Excellency!
Please stop... Your
body is beginning to
deteriorate again!



No need to report...
His Excellency's
already aware!



from Beauty
Peel, board
chairperson of
the Ucom Cartel
of Zanda City...

Lord Barrow. We
have just received
a manifestation

No! Weiiii... There's this destroyer from the AKD like circling the Planet! ...And guess what? It's getting ready to land a whole brigade of troops and stuff.

I'm awful sorry to barge in on you and all... I just wanted to know if you'd heard the news yet...

Your Excellency! Sir Braford has just reported that unidentified objects have just entered Both's atmosphere!

I mean they're bad for business, you know. What if a couple of them were arrested and started talking. It'd start a full scale panic, already!

!!

Aaaaand uuumm... A couple a days ago! All these Para-Guard types started hanging around the streets bothering everybody

My point is that as soon as we have the fully rejuvenated Lord Barrow back, he will then be in a position to rid this planet of the huge festering sore growing here and give genuine, hardworking enterprises like Ucom the opportunity to grow and prosper once again. What I'm trying to say is we have no future without you, Your Excellency.

But more than that... above all that... we all really want you to realize your dream, the real reason why you came to Both in the first place...

I'm really at a loss for words here, so kinda bear with me, okay? Look... I'm not asking for any favors here... I admit there is the matter of Yukon's sole rights to market the Barrow line of... aaahh... "amenities"

They're AKD
regulars!

ブッブッブッブッブッ

Our troops are surrounding the marshland with a line of defense like this.

The illumination indicates Bradford's position...

You know...
I think we can
still teach em
something
about war...

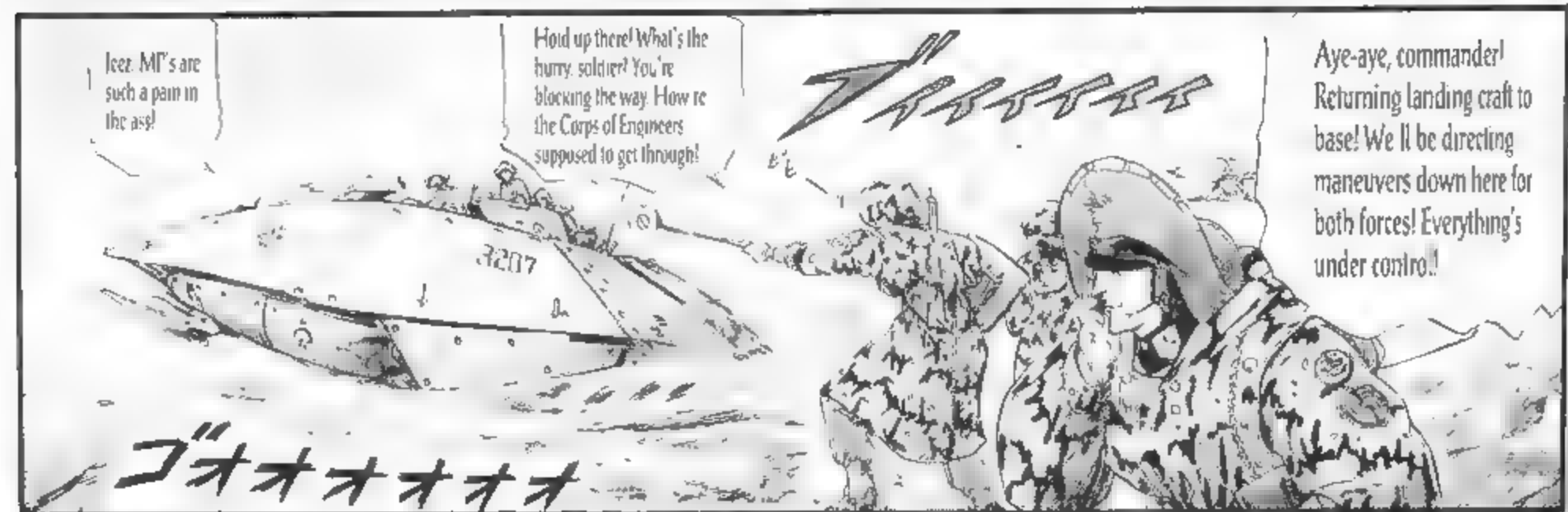
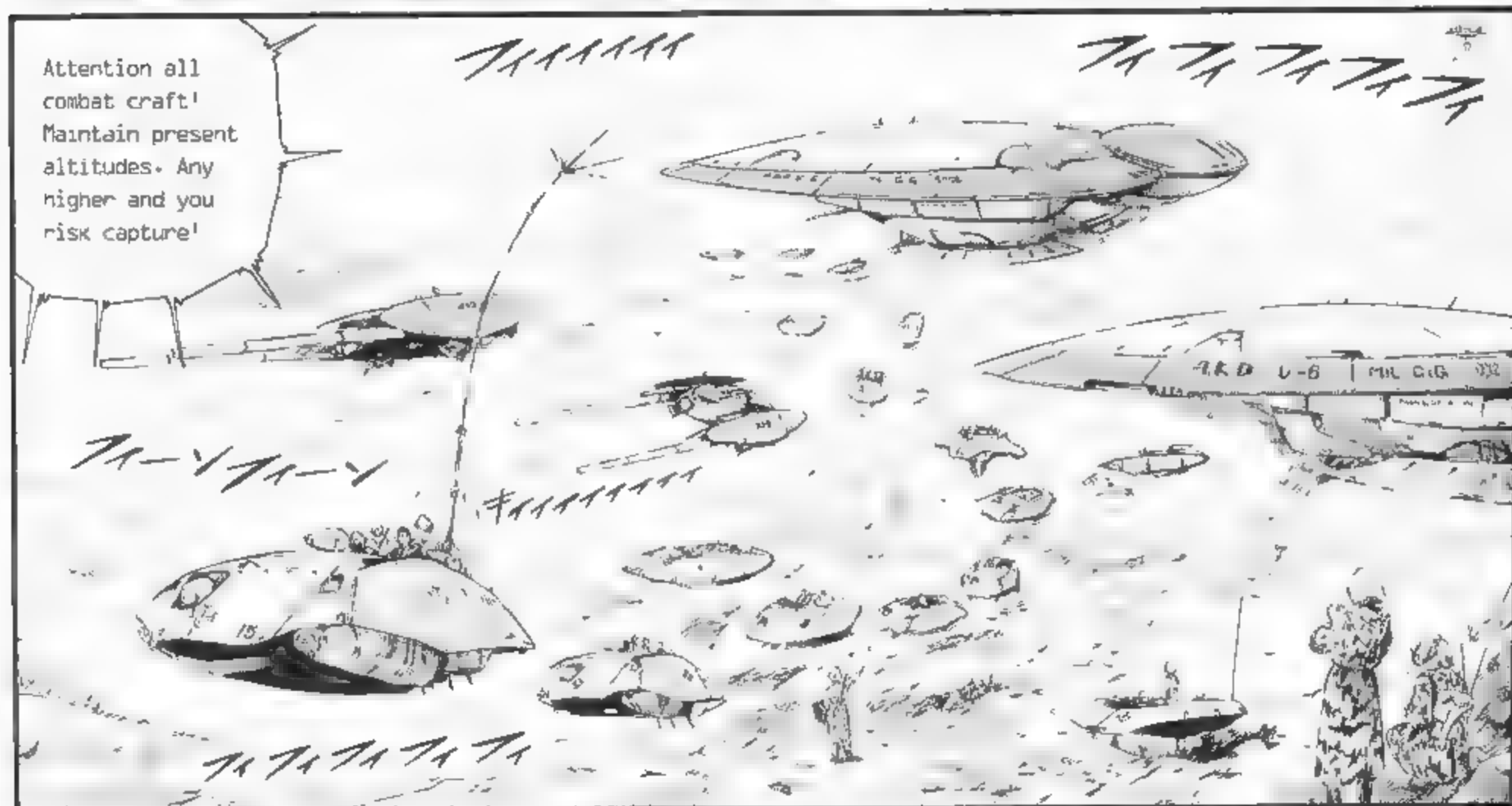
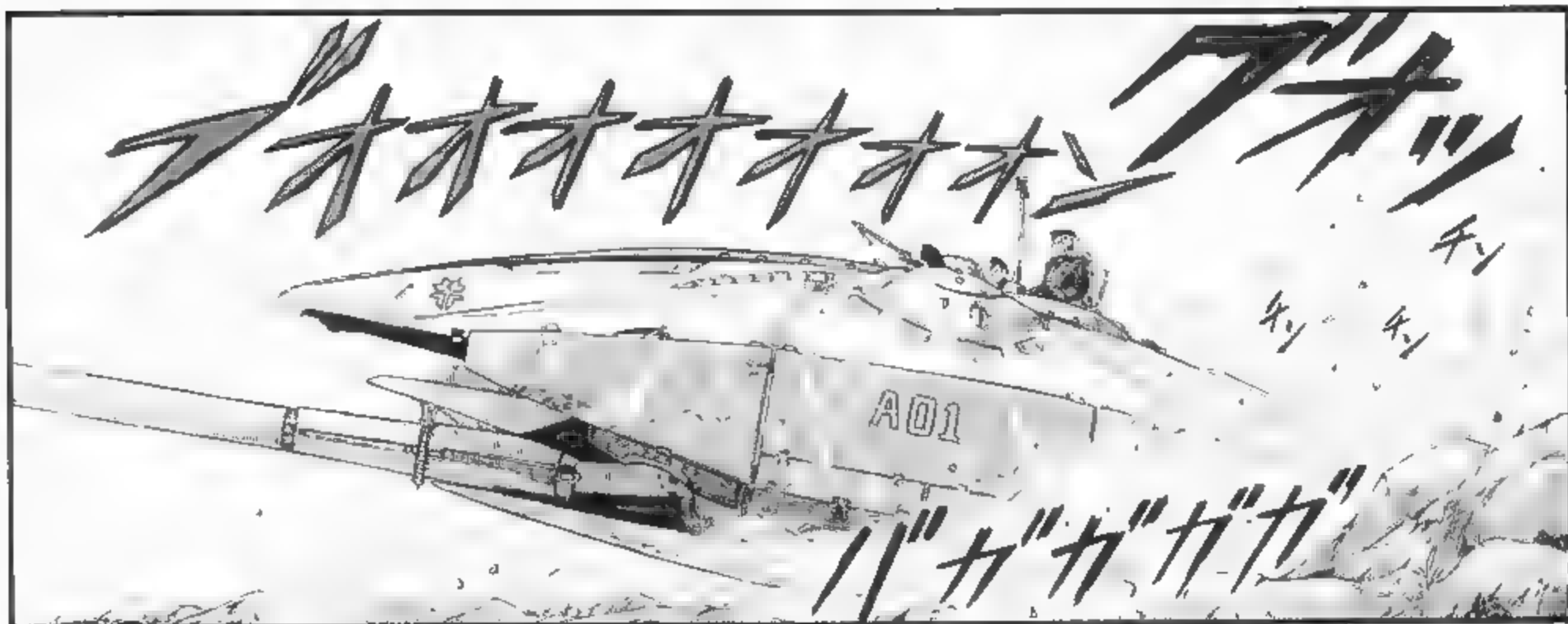
No matter how you
put it... It's the
AKD out there.
The rich kid army,
the best and the
brightest, man!

We've got our hands full here, that's for sure... And maybe a little more to boot!

I think we should put the Pied Pipers in the field and have the rest fall back. The mission will be accomplished... there's too much risk for them.

The AKD? ...I've always wanted to see the Mr.rages in action with my own eyes... See if all the rumors going around are really true...

The enemy is the AKD... A single brigade... Number of mortar heads unknown... but with only one battleship, I would estimate 3 or 4 at the most



New recruits!
Never fails! They
always think it's a
picnic... at first.

Say what you
want, as soon as
your knees stop
shaking...

Ha-ha-ha! Things have
changed. The MHs do
all the fighting. Almost
no casualties among
the regular troops.

ブオオオオオ

We're really here!
In the battle zone...
My nerves are
on end...

In your case, partner,
getting your head blown
off is better... because
then they'll fix your face
in the process...

ゴオオオオオ

Hell! Even if you
do lose an arm
or a leg, they're
replaceable!

On top of that... we
have to coordinate
operations with the
Space Force's
ground troops...

ピピ

Our division is made up of
elite enlisted men... but half
of them are new recruits with
no battle experience at all...

The Seable
army is mostly
mercenaries...
battle-tired
veterans!

ホホホホホホ

If they were to find out the
real object of our search
and rescue mission... It
would get back to the
folks back home...

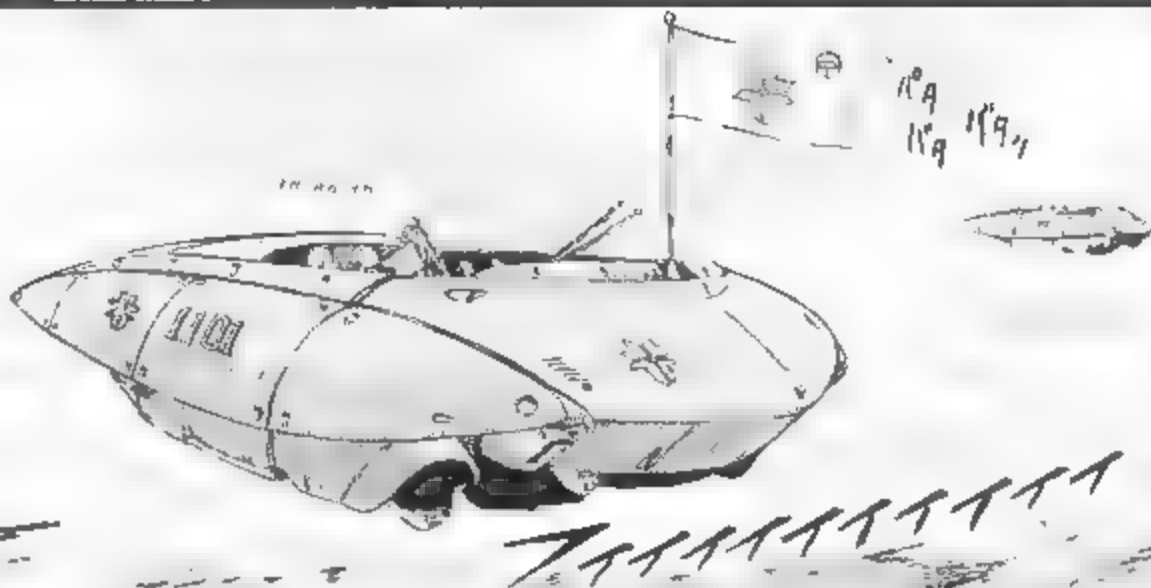
You've got a point there... but
our biggest problem is having to
ask our troops to risk their lives
without knowing why... What
are we going to do about that?

Let's just hope that
the Chiefs of Staff can
negotiate our way
outta this mess...

ゴゴゴゴゴ

That would be
disastrous...

Command ship
here... We have
spotted what
seems to be a
Seable unit!
Making contact!



I can get them to agree to high level talks we see. There's no one in the Calax crazy enough to challenge the AKD on the battlefield.



I can't know what they're doing here but I'm sure I have nothing to do with it.

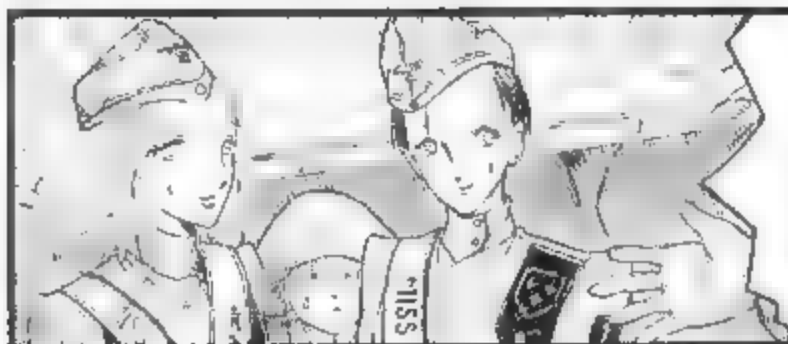
Don't worry. They won't attack... if we proceed in a congenial manner... and...



THAAAAAAAAA



Commander!



Miss Space Force and Miss 3rd Fleet brought on board, just in case!



I thought it would come to this... so I had.



Halt and state your business!

Miss Space Force! We don't need the sophisticated smile today. We want that you know sexy auto show companion look... for the troops.

Play "Waltz of the Flowers" from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker!

Not "Ein Schwert" from Wagner's Die Walküre, you idiot! You want them to open fire on us!



Raise a white flag and the Galaxy's colors. Remove all military insignia...

Open a circuit! Smile. Wave to everyone in a friendly manner!



I have been commissioned by the Galaxy Council to conduct a survey of the volcanic zone in the region.

Please tell your commanding officer that Commander Adolf Tojo Churchill MacArthur, diplomatic naval attaché of the AKD Republic of Hyrum would like to have a word with him.



What a bunch of buffoons! ...Let's give these slackers a little pick-me-up, shall we?



He-he-he... "We come in peace" with a fully armed division just over the hill ready to attack. Typical AKD brazenness.



Withdraw! Get us the hell outta here!



カッ



Hit the deck!

Eek!



Ooof!



Shut up! His Majesty has always told us...

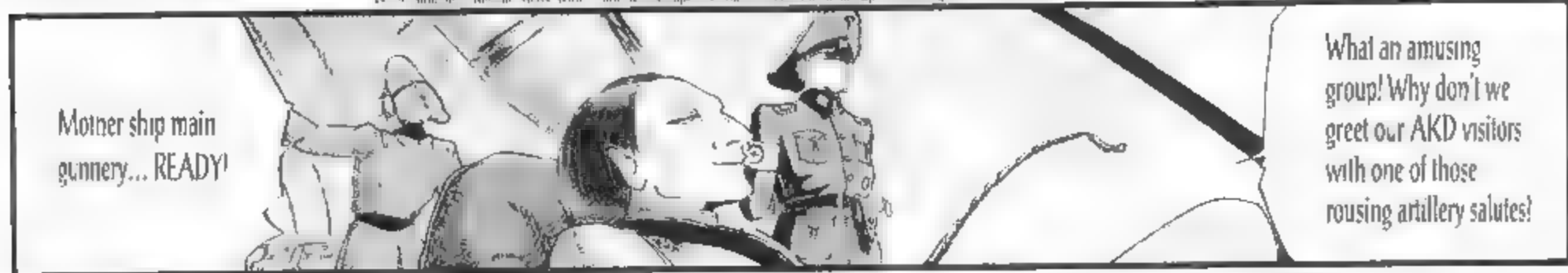
What do you think you were doing, Commander Toccata? Dressing up like some fascist warmonger secret agent!

I'll bet a month's pay he was trying to sabotage the negotiations all along!



Great party shots from the girls!

Will you look at that! Har-har-haar!



Mother ship main gunnery... READY!

What an amusing group! Why don't we greet our AKD visitors with one of those rousing artillery salutes!



FIRE!



Peace negotiations
have failed!
Seable commencing
bombardment!

Give me another
hour or so!

Still having some
problems with the
control system...

How's the
Schpeltor
coming along?

We did all we
could. I guess they
weren't interested
in the first place.

...a U-XV I battleship.
The U-2211 Gold Eye.
They're transmitting.

Whew! It's
friendly.

Commander Lonn!
There's a ship
approaching.

Take your
time! Looks
like we have a
ground war to
fight first.

What?

Commander Lonn!
We have aboard three
U-2211 Gods Knights
from Vondrseec,
including Sir Leibuch!

I hereby place
Vondrseec's three
Blood Temple troop
units and the
three of us under
your command...
reporting as
ordered...

Leibuch here! Sir
Hind informed me
of the MH problem
in Delta Belun
and ordered us to
join you!

Of course! ...Most of the M-1s experienced power failure in a that confusion at the Palace but there are other M-1s stationed elsewhere... Why didn't I think of that ...



Sir H no!!
You're a genius!

Ready orbital
artillery... Release
airborne turrets!

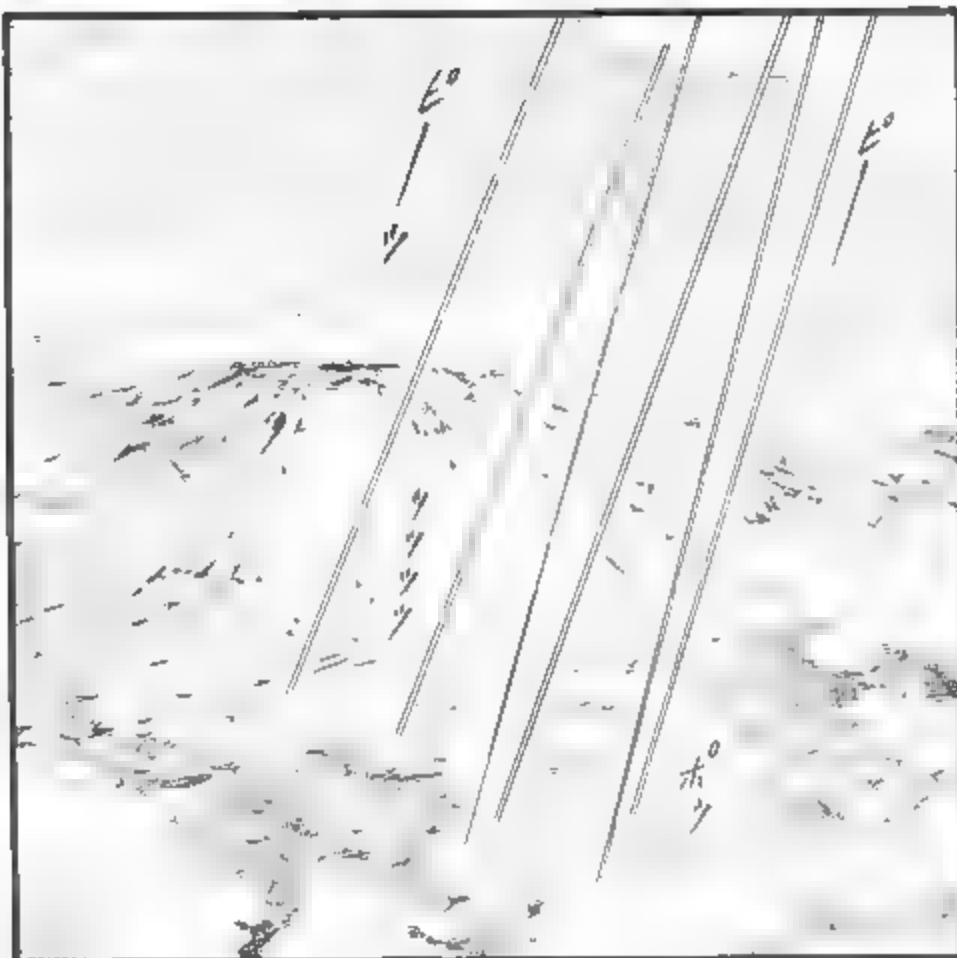


Returning fire.
U-2211! Would
you mind helping
us out?

Ordinance,
energy
grenades...
with mass!



Deploy the
main gunnery!
Into formation!

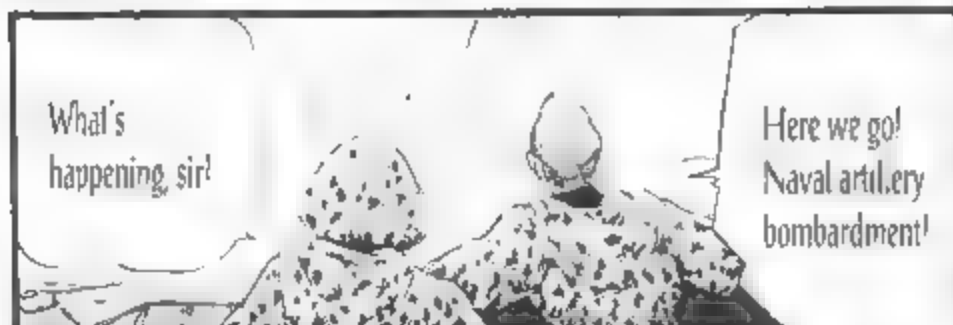


Full caliber
settings!
Commence firing
initial warning
lasers called for
by the Galaxy's
Articles of War!



What's
happening, sir?

Here we go!
Naval artillery
bombardment!





Commence firing!



Artillery attacks from spacecraft in orbit are as close to violating Galaxy Law as you can get!

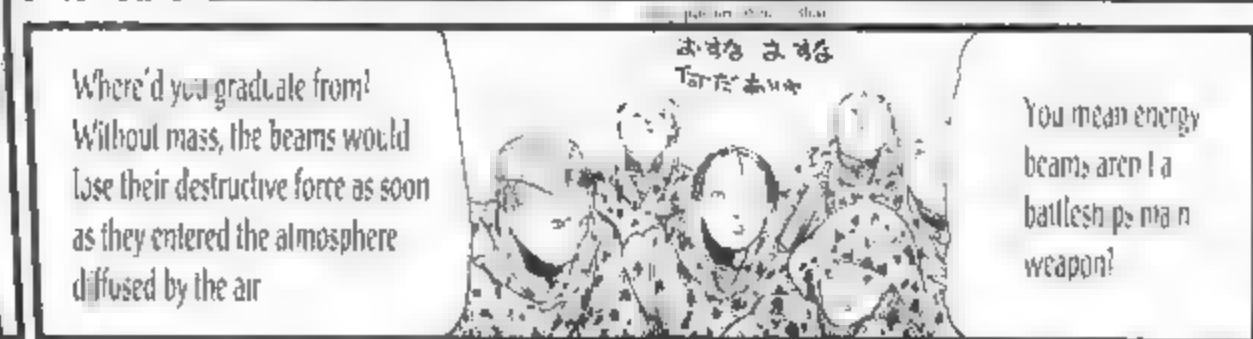
ゴゴゴゴゴ

They're warning lasers. They signal that a lethal artillery attack is about to begin, warning all personnel, friend and foe alike, to take cover.



Mass energy attack on the way! Anti-shock precautions in effect!

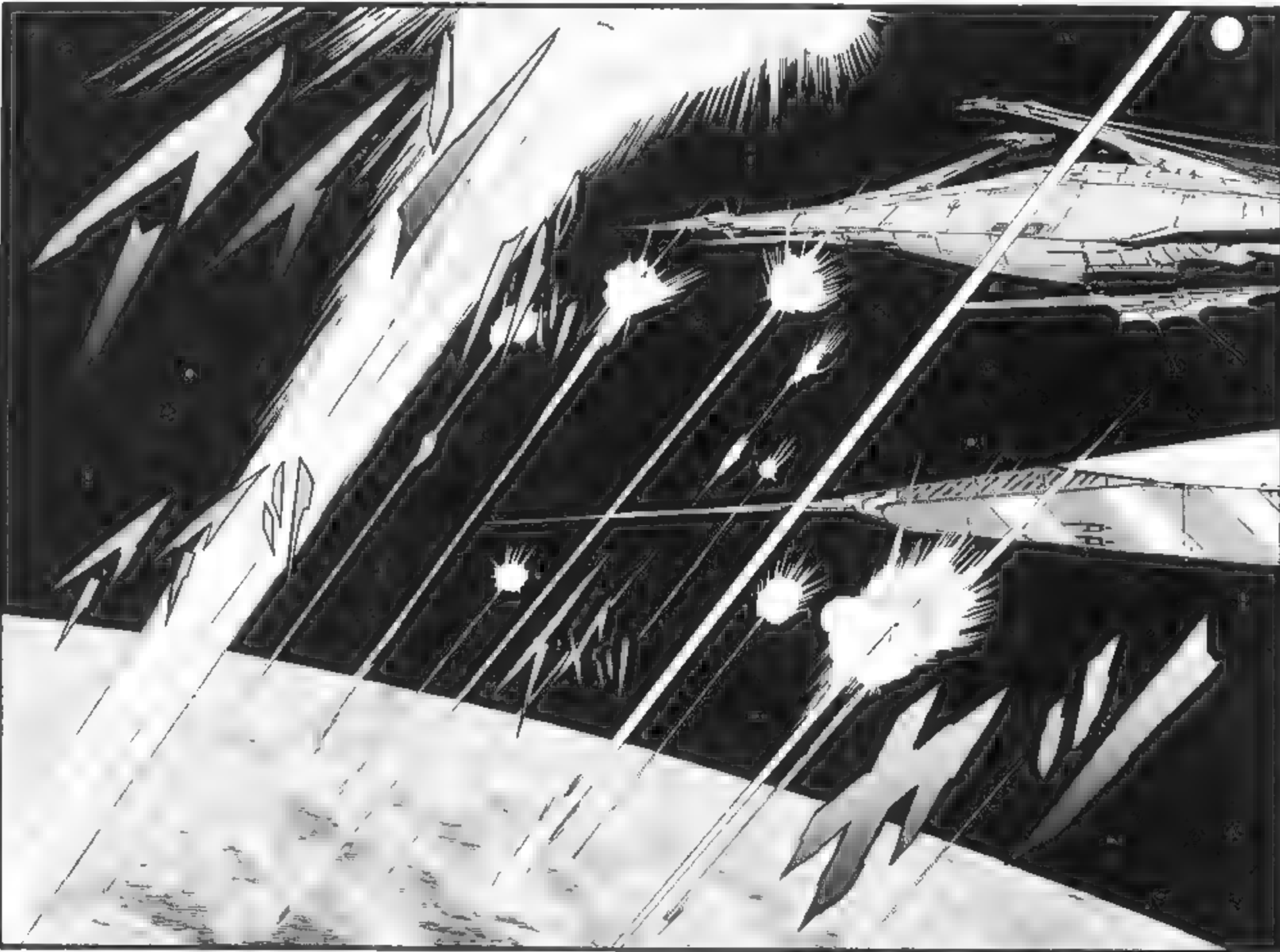
ゴオオ オオオ



Where'd you graduate from! Without mass, the beams would lose their destructive force as soon as they entered the atmosphere diffused by the air.

おすろ まろ
ただあひや

You mean energy beams aren't a battleship's main weapon?





ing at ab in stg, up in 18



Looks to me like
some serious
route - goin
in over there



Whoaaa! What a response!
That's the stuff! Keep it up!
The enemy! It's been so long!
My arms re tingling!

人“オオオオオオオオオオ……

Wow!

ゴ"ゴ"ゴ"ゴ"ゴ"ゴ"ゴ"ゴ"ゴ

Task¹

Not a thing, sir! The shock and electromagnetic wave caused by the bombardment have thrown our scanning computer into confusion! It's unable to take any measurements.

What kind of data are we getting on the attack and the movement of enemy vessels?

All the guns are special twin screaming types, so there must be a total of 12 barrels in operation firing at intervals of 6x2. There's not one but two ships hovering above the artillery. The next round will be coming in within the next 3 minutes.

From the canon
noise I detect two
different calibers..

They have fired
24 rounds

Order all units... to immediately advance and form a frontline within 3km of the AKD front!

No trouble at
all. Master

Sorry to have
to trouble you,
Darling.

Just made a
believer
outta me...

Fatimas
Wow .

Aye-aye, sir
All troops!
Forward! March!

After the mother ship falls back, conceal! Commence maneuvers!

If you don't get your
ass in gear, soldier...
The next attack'll be
aimed in this direction!



What? You don't
mean... We're
gonna march into
that wall of fire!

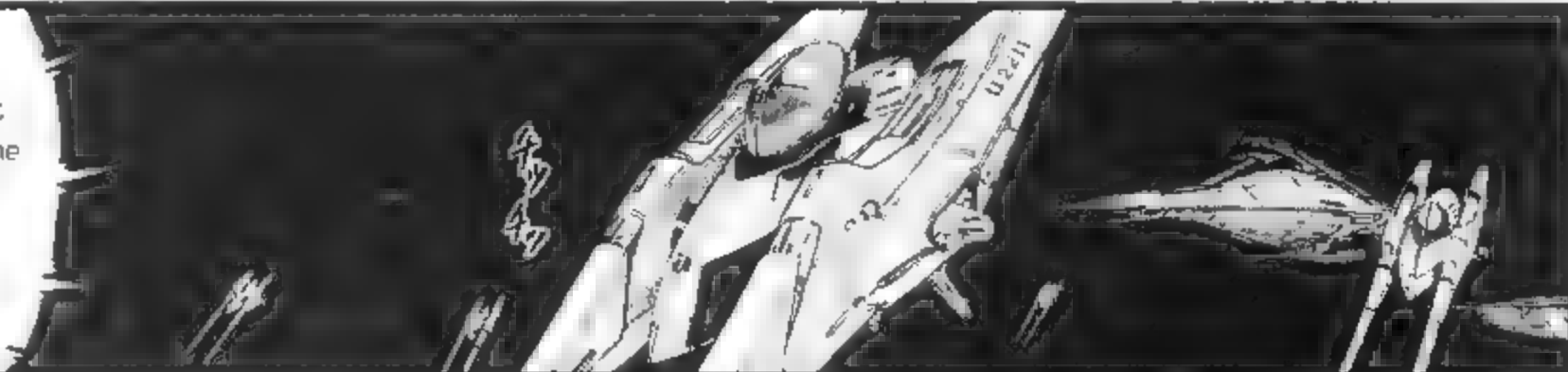
ゴオオオオオオ
オオッ

ブイイイイイイイイ



Forward!! If
you value
your lives,
keep moving
forward!!

Ready for the next
attack! Aim for the
approaching enemy
troops! Give 'em
all you got!



Not yet! Not
until we ascertain
how many Seable
has.



What about
the MHs,
Commander?



Another attack
will put our
own forces in
probable range!



Impossible, sir! The
enemy has begun to move
forward! The units in the
rear have disappeared
from our radar.

ジーン ジーン ジーン ギン ギン ギン
ギリギリ



Cease fire!

I wonder who's
in command over
there. Not too
shabby for the
likes Seable..



Hmmm... A
forward advance,
huh? We don't
seem to frighten
them.

We've got to hold our ground... and wait for Aisha's and my machines...

If they have more than three, the Bloods won't be able to keep them from trampling our ground troops...

Je voil, Herr Golverneur!

That's the top priority order! Transmit!

Tell the ground troops... to take prisoners... We've got to find out if they're protecting or holding any civilians prisoner.

Also, if this is a trap, we won't have time to get out. Then there's the problem of

Very unwise move at this point. Until we get our hands on that nymph, we can't budge from this position.

What about the MHs, Commander Sukal?

if the AKD can put out on the field one more MH than we can, what would happen then... We'd have to move our position and lose the nymph.

We have six of them... The enemy was supposed to have only one ship...

...now we find out it has two... Probably reinforcements from Vondseec...

not to mention the distinct possibility that the extra MH would turn its sites on the mother ship.

Those scoundrels...
I thought at first they were
only here to keep us in
check... but I'm not so sure
about that anymore... There
could be another reason



One more thing...
Why didn't the AKD
immediately deploy its
MHs instead of moving
out its ground forces!

1st Platoon take
the right wing...
2nd Platoon the
left... 3rd and
Artillery Platoons
the center...

オオオオオ

アイアイアイ

Company, halt!
Enemy in sight!
Infantry
dismount!

アイアイ

アイアイアイ
ガッ

Lower the
dozer blade
and dig us
some trenches!

ガリガリガリガリ ブオオオオオオ

バツ

ブオオオオ

1221

Hey! You new recruits...
Quit gawkin' over there
and get to work even ing
out this trench!

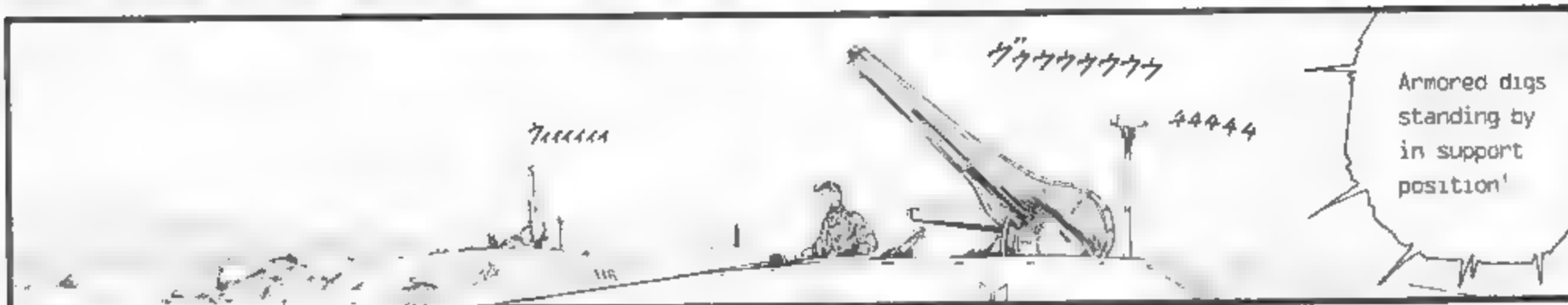
We'l
ll be

Wow... look at
that thing dig .
better than a
bulldozer!

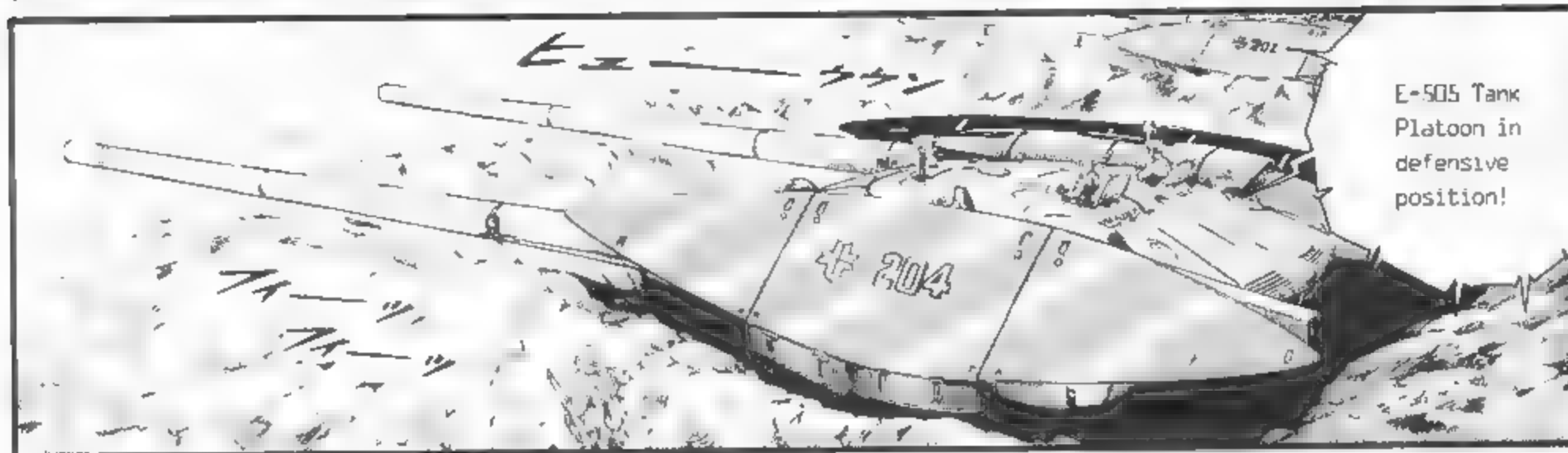


Quit complaining...
Think about how
we're gonna be sittin'
duck targets if you
don't get to work!

This sucks.
I've ended to
commandeer a dig!



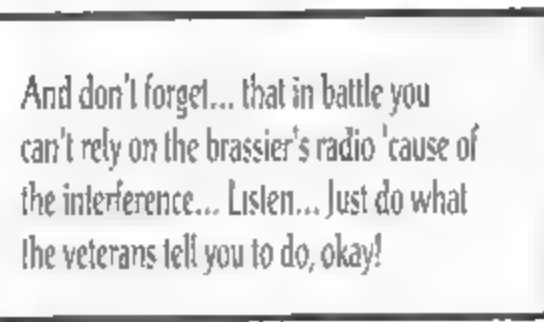
Armored digs
standing by
in support
position!



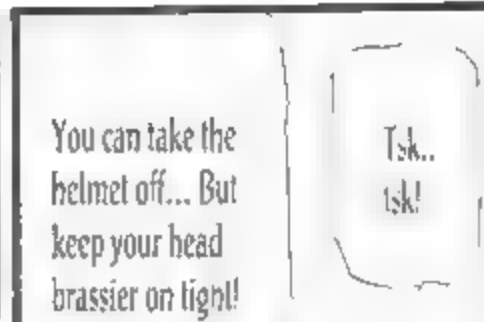
E-505 Tank
Platoon in
defensive
position!



Yes, sir
I mean
Okay Sarge

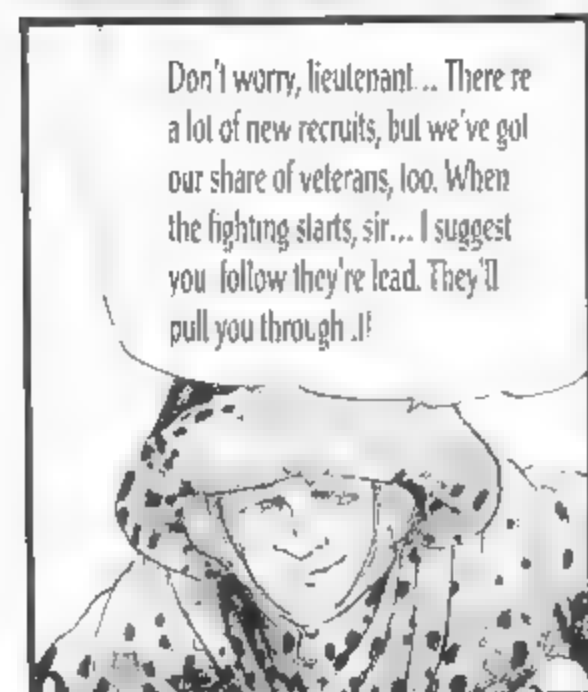


And don't forget... that in battle you
can't rely on the brassier's radio 'cause of
the interference... Listen... Just do what
the veterans tell you to do, okay!



You can take the
helmet off... But
keep your head
brassier on tight!

Tsk...
tsk!



Don't worry, lieutenant... There're
a lot of new recruits, but we've got
our share of veterans, too. When
the fighting starts, sir... I suggest
you follow they're lead. They'll
pull you through..!!



Huh? Why
would... the
company
commander...!



The company is
in position and
standing ready,
Lieutenant!

Carrying a
message...



Where in
the hell're
the MHs!

Nope

See
anything!

Anybody
got any
caramels?

Thank...
Thank you,
corporal.

I'm returning
to company
headquarters

For starters sir
You're missing
showing Prime
sniper target, sir

Aaahh... He'll
come around..
Hell! The 1st is
the best damned
outfit in Space

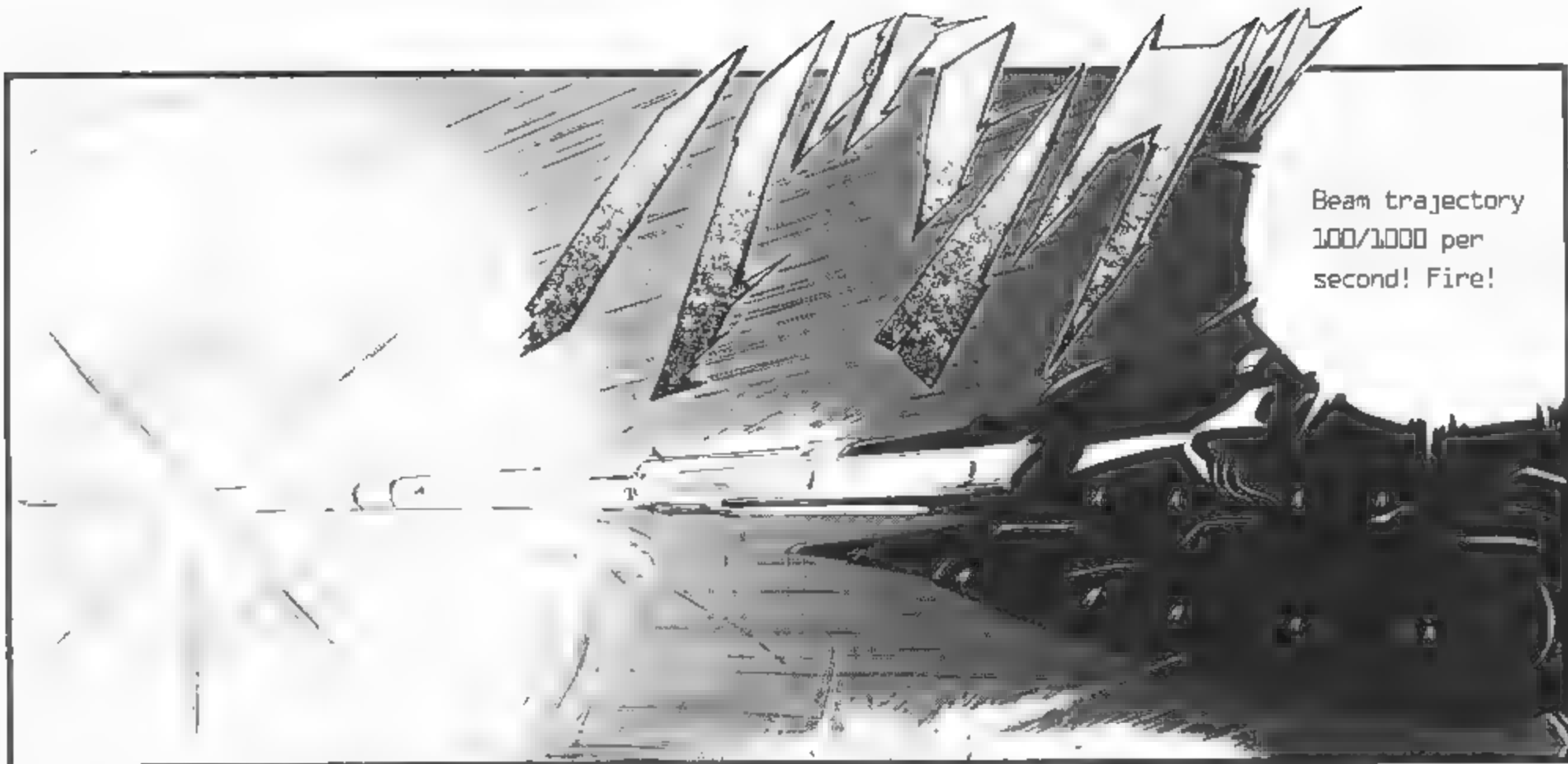
What luck! First
commenced
officer field duty
turns out to be the
real thing

Aye-aye, sir.

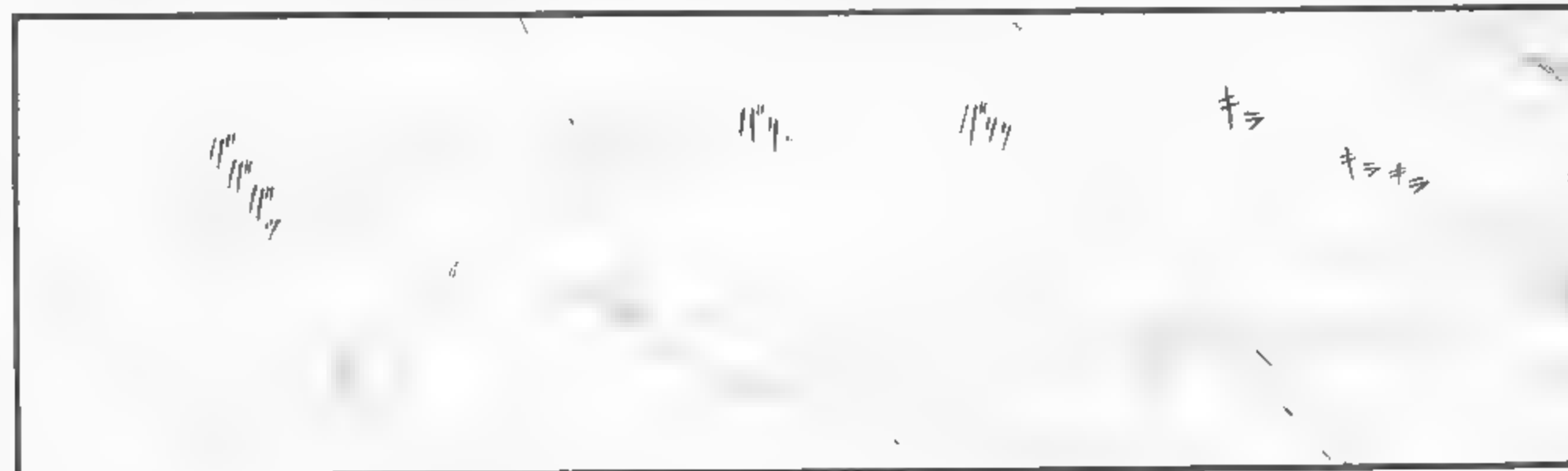
Hey Jule... This is no time
to be looking at that picture
of Noriko... Stow it if you
wanna keep it, son!

Je vohl! Main gun
elevation floating
charge completed!
Make final target
adjustments!

Forward Observation
reports enemy mechanized
unit encountered!
Commence artillery
support! First round
electromagnetic inter-
ference aurora beams!



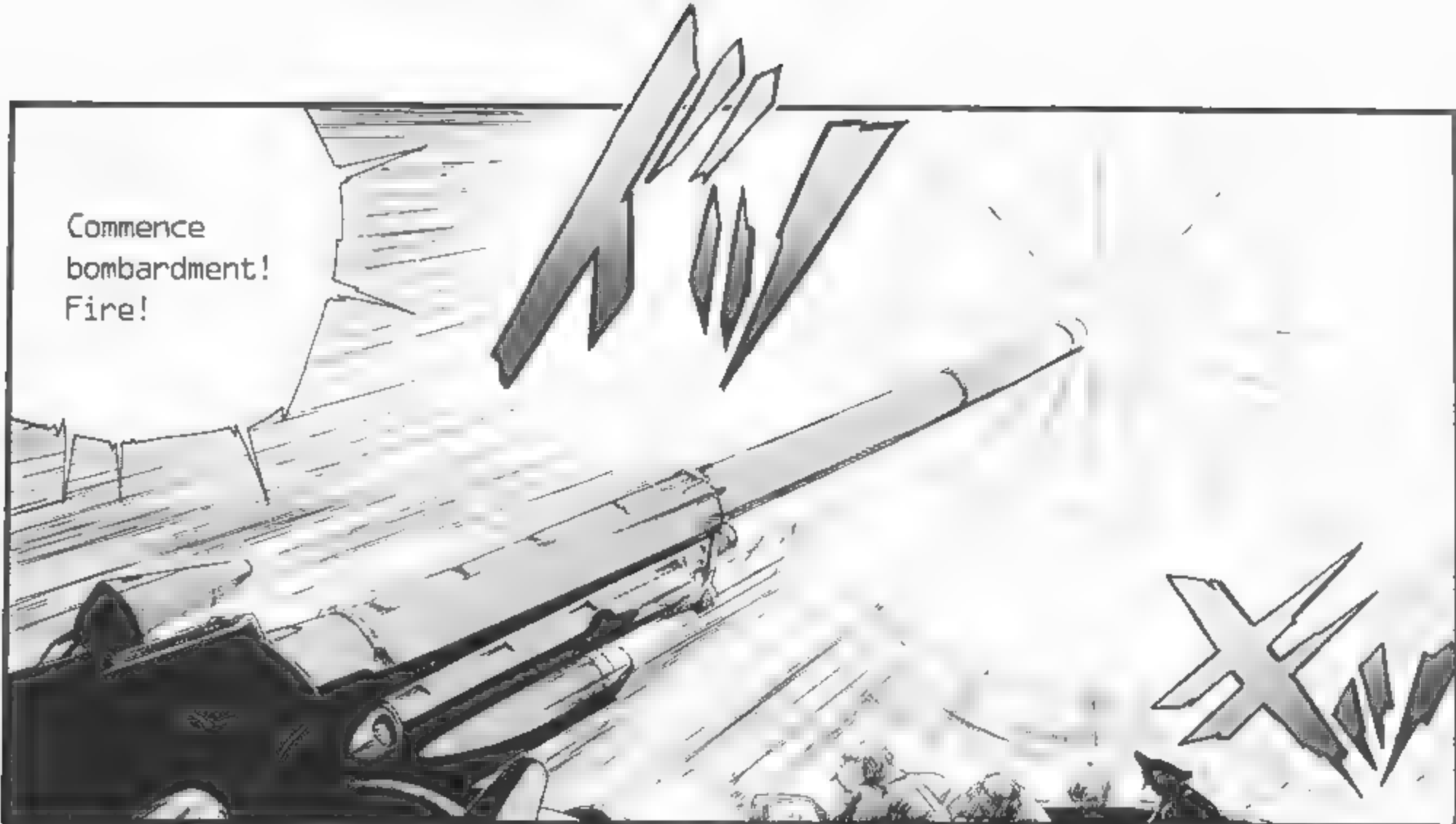
Beam trajectory
100/1000 per
second! Fire!



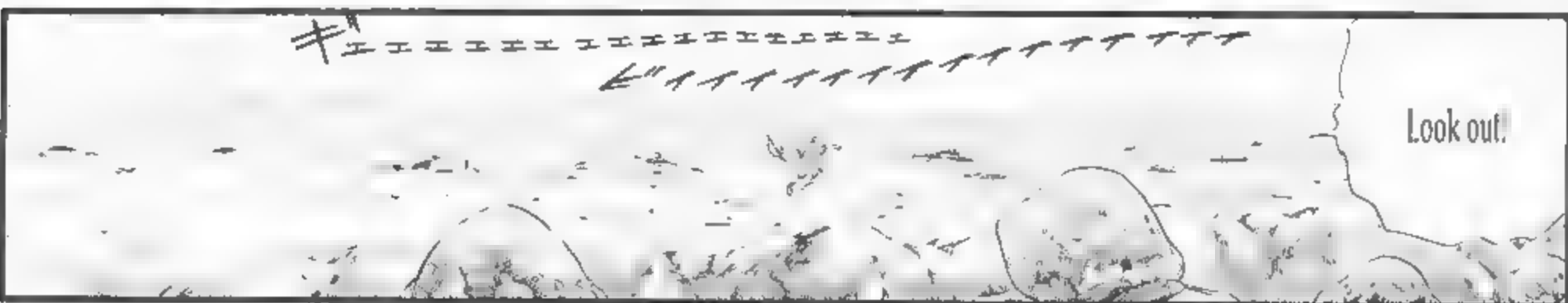
Requesting
assistance...
9000m to desti-
nation... Get
us over the
first 3000...

Aurora beams! That's it!
. Knock out all our
scanning and monitoring
equipment... god dammit!

Commence
bombardment!
Fire!



Look out!



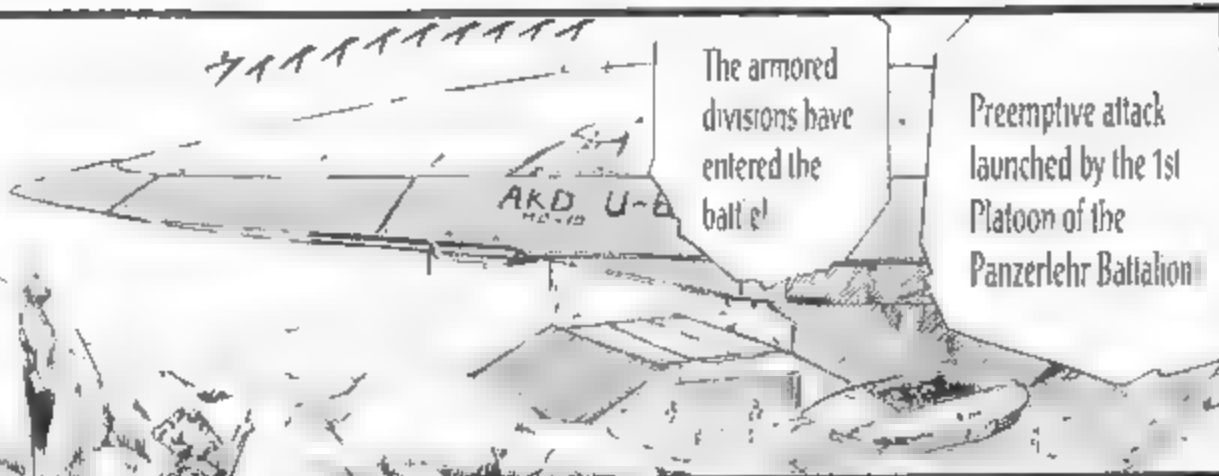
Units of the 4th
Battalion have
engaged enemy
troops! Half the
battalion being
massed in the
fire zone!

Artillery bombard-
ment between the
3rd and 4th
Battalions!



That's Captain Yuri Vasyuchenko's battalion... All top aces... We've got nothing to worry about!

ホオオオオオ



The armored divisions have entered the battle!

Preemptive attack launched by the 1st Platoon of the Panzerlehr Battalion

..We have to find out if Seable's got him or not...

ゴオオオオ



I agree... Before the MI-Is can be deployed...

...unnecessary casualties are going to begin to mount...



If we don't capture one of their officers pretty soon, Commander..

Word has it that the 3rd Battalion's takin' a hell of a beating.. Wouldn't I wanna be over there right now!

ヒヒヒヒヒヒヒヒヒヒ

ドド

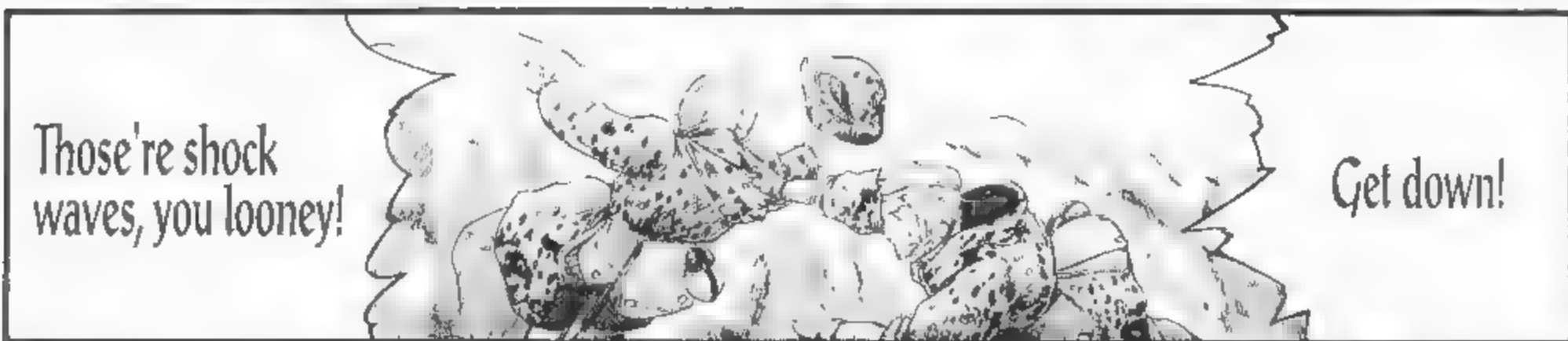
グオオオオオ

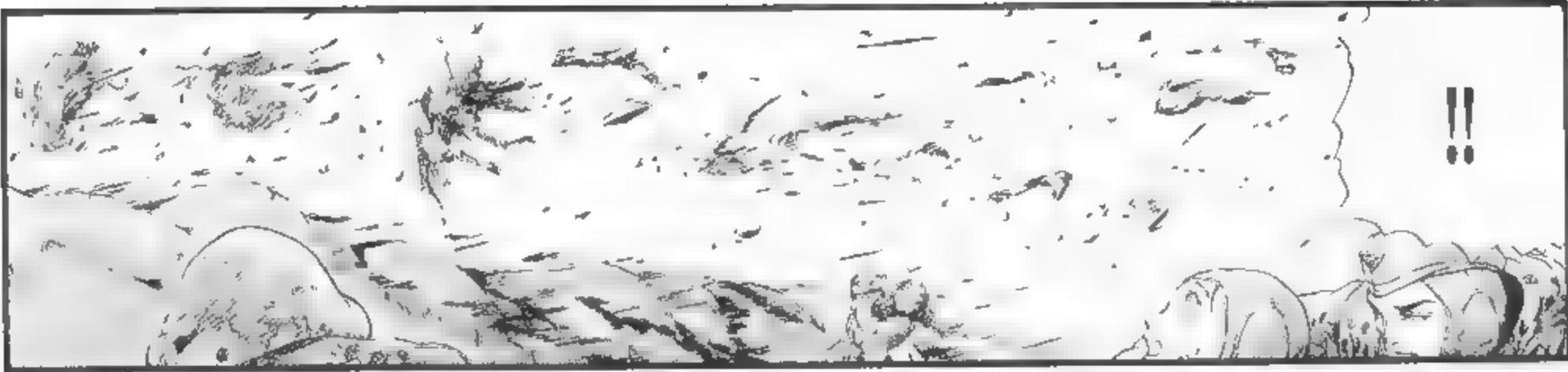
Hit the deck, boys and girls!

ヒヒヒヒヒヒヒヒヒヒ

Ooohhh shit









Noriko.
Oh Noriko



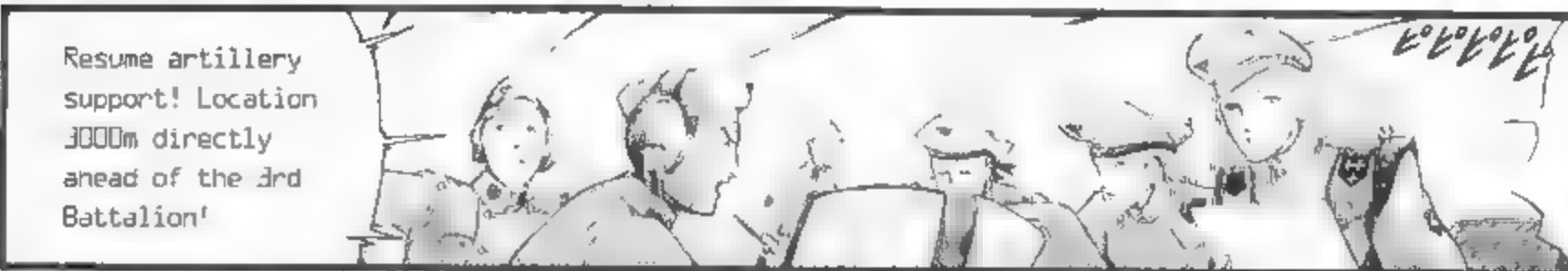
I don't wanna
die! Let me
outta here!

Get back!
Somebody
grab him and
shut him up!



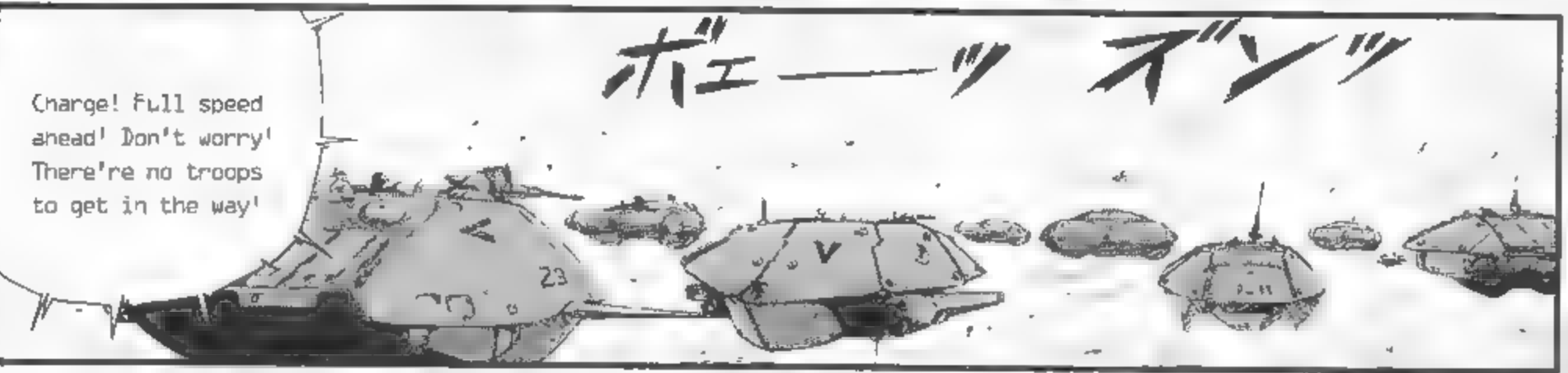
Nobody told me
you could really
get killed in a
place like this!

God! What
am I doing
here?



Resume artillery
support! Location
3000m directly
ahead of the 3rd
Battalion!

The Seable
advance is picking
up speed...

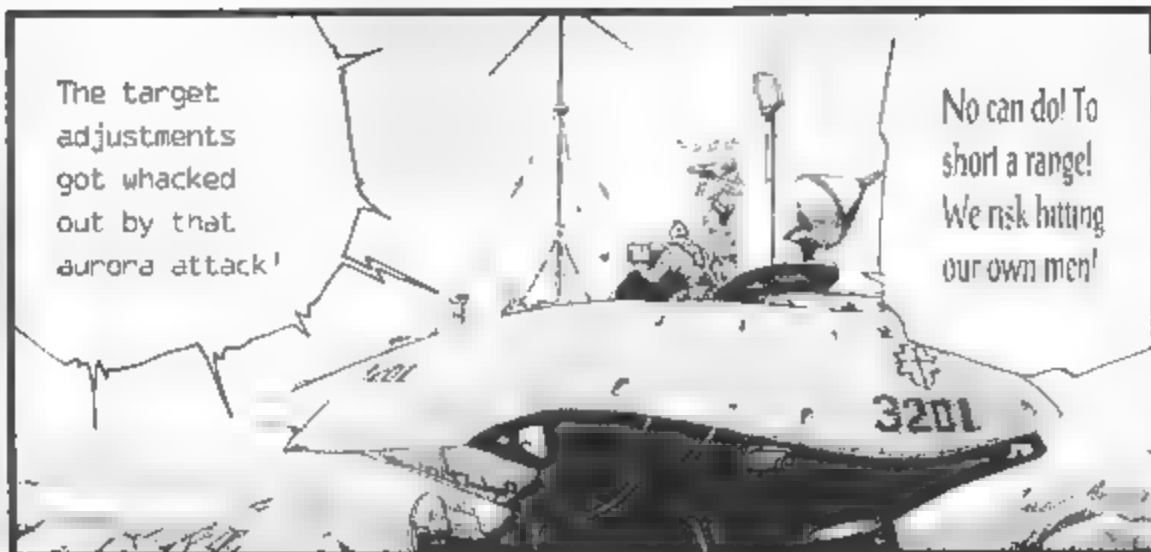


Charge! Full speed
ahead! Don't worry!
There're no troops
to get in the way!

ボエ——ンズンズン



I'm hit.
Aaaaarrrghhh!



The target
adjustments
got whacked
out by that
aurora attack!

No can do! To
short a range!
We risk hitting
our own men!



Whoaaa!



Ja voh.

Sergeant! Report
in immediately!
We're dyin' out
here!



Who do they
think they're
shootin' at! Take
aim, you SOB's!

That sound like
our own gunfire!

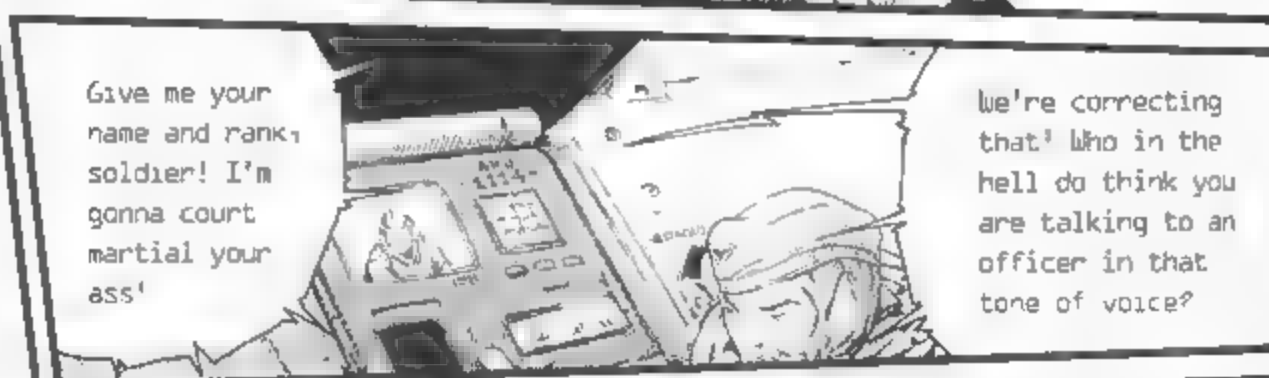


Seable troops
on the periph-
ery sir



Listen up, sh.it-for-brains!
Where the hell d'ya
think your army? The
enemy's another 3kms
away you dumb shit!

Artillery! Get me the
officer in charge on
the double! You're
hurt, huh?



Give me your
name and rank,
soldier! I'm
gonna court
martial your
ass!

We're correcting
that! Who in the
hell do think you
are talking to an
officer in that
tone of voice?



Court martial or
not. You're fuckin'
killin' my men out
here! Capeesh!

You're more of a dumb fuck
than I thought! Since when
do pussy first lewies sittin'
on their fat asses up in
artillery get wise with
infantry sergeants riskin'
theirs on the battlefield!

What... is Seabie up to? Why don't they launch a mass attack? Maybe like us, they don't want anybody to know their real troop strength... or... no way!

I'm going over there. The 6th Battalion will stand by as backup in case of an enemy breakthrough.

Commander Miyama: Enemy troops spotted in front of the 4th and 5th Battalions.

Yes, sir!

Hmmm... Those are divisions with assault tanks from the artillery regiment, right?

The infantry is always the last resort. Things usually get straightened out long before they call on us.

Just the sooner you get used to it, the better we've got long way to go.

But I wanted to study in the capital... so I took the entrance exam for the imperial guard division...

I... I was an engineering student at a college in Nebuto, a little country in the South...

Come think of it... what are you guys doing here in the first place... You didn't have to volunteer for such hazardous duty...

By volunteering for duty here, he'll be eligible to enter the ranks of the elite top brass back home... He had no other choice.

That new newly commissioned... Lieutenant Schenkang's parents are civilian military employees.

Come to think of it...

That's why I volunteered, too!

After serving two years in this division... They put you on the top of the list to get into one of the military academy research institutes or... if you're qualified... the Central Green Institute of Science and Technology.

But even more than that .. when I heard that Commander Lonn was heading the mission... I got really excited...

I got to fly on an AKD flagship WHALE...

But coming here... heh-heh-heh... more than just battle experience...

I can't help feeling sort of ticked, but.

I got a glimpse of Commander Lonn .. She's gorgeous.

I wanted to see.. MHs and fatimas up close

オーン

I know I'll never get a chance like this again

What kinda souvenirs they got here on Both!

This is command ship! Assume defensive positions! That is a direct order from Commander Sukat! Keep the enemy out of the marshland at all costs! We need more time!

ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ

Support personnel halt! Only the tanks from here on! Maintain elevations of 1 meter! High risk of direct hits! Barriers up! Front 30 degrees!

Read you! We'll intercept them at 3000 meters! Maximum fire mode! Barrel pressure 70! Aperture 75mm! Maximum barriers!

ボツ

フイフイフイフイフイ

Four enemy tanks at 4500 meters! They're heavy armored Bakinnrakkan model M1 leopard tanks equipped with triaxial guns.

Artillery Warfare

Alternative beam trajectory

Indirect sighting by forward observation teams calling in range corrections

BANG

Canon

Tank Warfare

Direct sighting. Straight trajectory that ends up somewhere in the universe after impact

False tolerance image

Beams repulsed

Aurora beams may be fired to cause electromagnetic interference. However, within ranges of 1000m or less, tolerances decrease, ensuring direct hits. In that case, the battle turns into a dog fight

Tank, etc

Interference field for distorting sighting beams

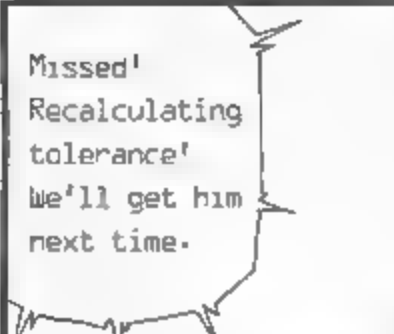
Artillery battles on Joker are fought using energy wars. Such optical weapons are different from exploding ordinance in that if the former is not remote controlled it will fly perfectly straight. When firing beams over the heads of friendly troops or to the other side of a mountain or hill, they are fired at an upward angle so that they will rain down on the enemy. This means that the enemy can see them clearly. This is why, for some unknown reason, energy beams on Joker can set alternative mass energy beam trajectories enabling them to fly over mountains like exploding ordinance. Tanks are equipped with energy fields around them to interfere with the enemy's electronic sighting devices, causing false tolerances in the radar and monitoring equipment measurements, decreasing shooting accuracy to about a 20% chance of a direct hit and necessitating tolerance recalculation.



Fire!



Anti-tank
canon?
Concentrate
on the point
of firing!



Missed!
Recalculating
tolerance!
We'll get him
next time.



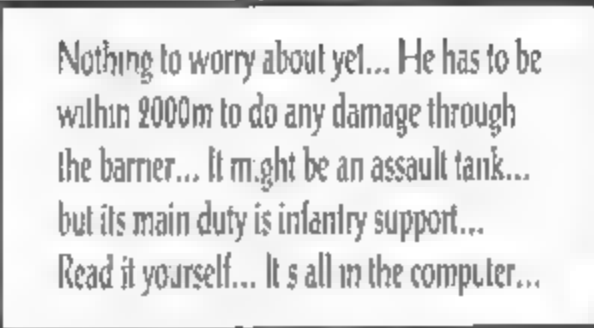
One's for sighting
purposes... to correct
for our aiming.
So the other one can
deliver a direct hit

Yeah He'll
stagger the
firing between
the two guns...



E-505
assault !!

It's an E-505
assault model..
no doubt packin
two pistols..



Nothing to worry about yet... He has to be
within 2000m to do any damage through
the barrier... It might be an assault tank...
but its main duty is infantry support...
Read it yourself... It's all in the computer...



Ouch.



Fire!



We're packin'...
Rheinmetall Forgik, the
most powerful armored
weapon in the Galaxy.



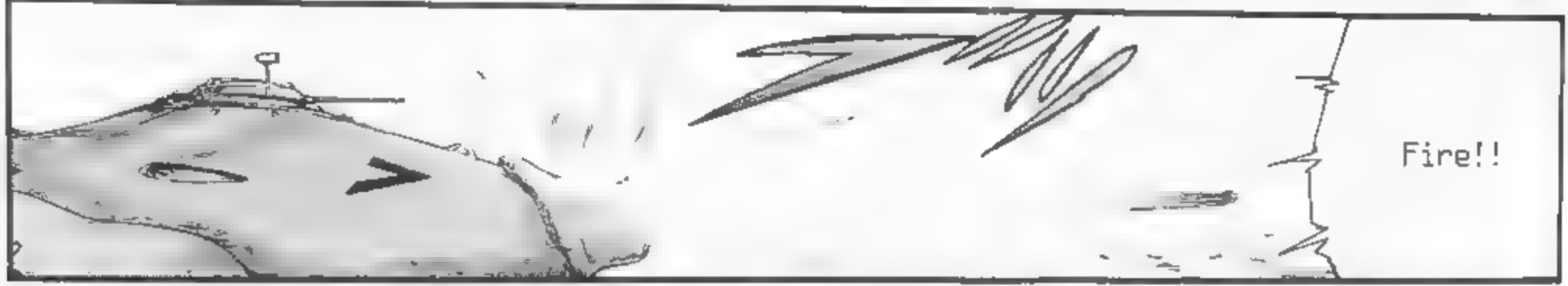
You're supposed
to move after you
fire! We're deadly
at 4000m!



Bounced off!
Aim for the
unprotected
side!



That was close!
Fire the next
round! Then
I'll put'er in
reverse!



Fire!!



!!

Numbers 3 and 4
hit! Numbers 1
and 2! Get
outta there!

ボツ

Fools! Don't they
know that floating
exposes their
topsides! Fire!

Fall back!

Lost!? Hold on!
All tanks... are
presently engaged!
Nothing we can do...
Hang in there!

Command Headquarters! 2nd
Battalion here! We've lost our
whole armored unit! We're
helpless against the enemy's
heavy tanks... Reinforcement
requested...

That's
scary

Sir!

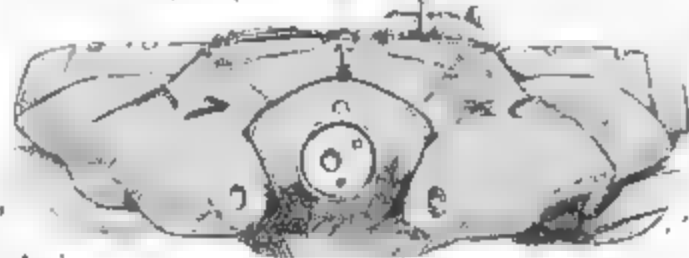
Hold your
position!
Defend it to
the last man!
Commander's
orders!

Our support
Biral-Kema is
not battle-ready!
Send in the air
balleles!

shut,
man!

Roger! But don't advance farther than we can support you! Stay within the cavalry's firing range!

ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
ヤッ ヤッ ヤッ ヤッ ヤッ



ブッブッブッブッ

Okay! Bring up the rear... slowly... While we take care of the rest of their fire power!

421 421 421 421

Remember that an MH beam is deadly anywhere within a 10km radius!



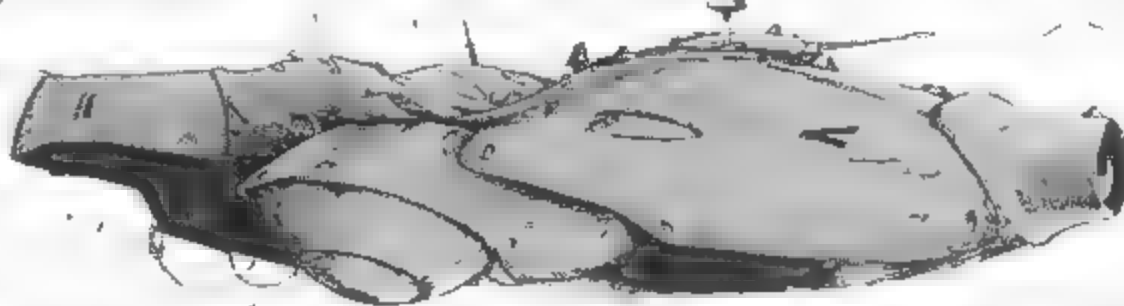
Keep your guard up! They could unleash their MHs at any time! Proceed with caution!



That was too easy

Combine that wizardry with a headliner's uncanny sighting skills... bulls-eye every time! Just the other day... I saw Dr. König making adjustments to the sights on his Va-O-La.

ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
ヤッ ヤッ ヤッ ヤッ ヤッ



Fatimas, man... fatimas! Makes no difference what kind of a barrier you put up... No matter how you try to jam those bitches... The instant the MH eyes, scanners and monitors pick up the signal, they compensate... on the spot!

Since you mentioned it... How do they do that?

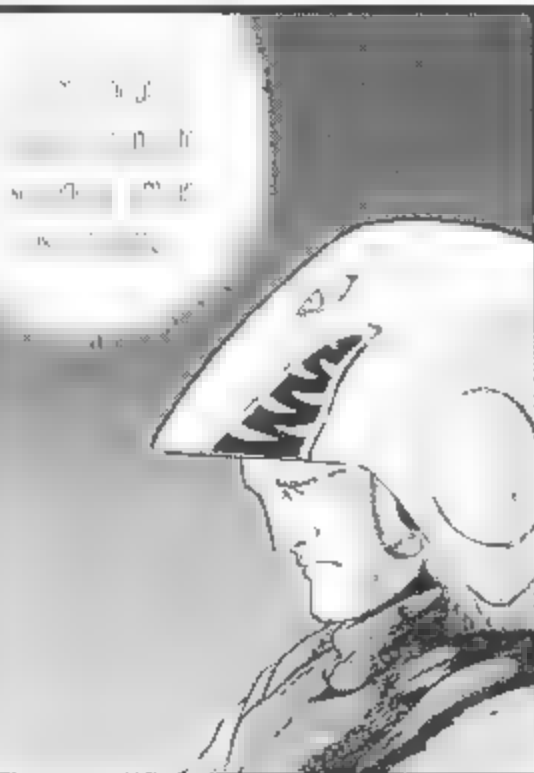
Huh?



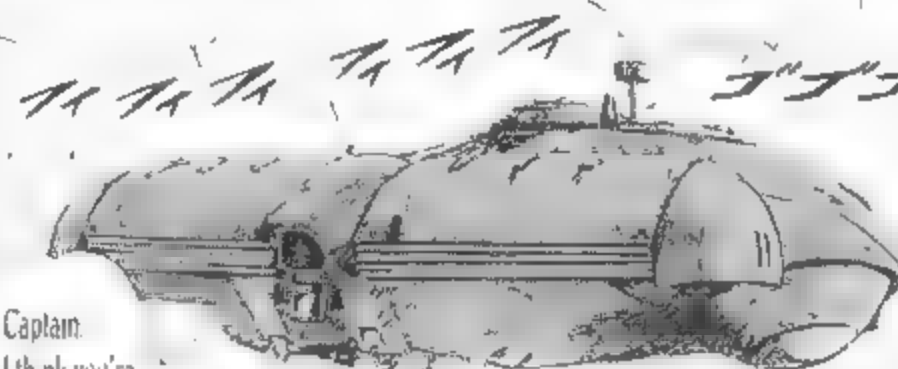
That's why you only find such merchandise on MHs!

Then find another ten million F's every year to maintain the little freak!

Let's get some of them fatimas to enlist in armored! Whoopee!



Captain, I think you're in love



ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
ヤッ ヤッ ヤッ ヤッ ヤッ

Before you rush for the mail order catalogue, I should inform you that first, you gotta shell out the cost of 100 tanks for just one of 'em



... years ago. I was involved in a mission under Commander... for duty... I had... I was washing my face at a camp water spigot and when I... there she was! I'd never been that close to a tat ma before.



I thought I was seeing a fairy dancing in the moonlight... Like one of those mythical animals you read about in novels... My whole body turned to ice... seeing that my face was wet, she gently wiped it with her handkerchief... After she left, I just stood there dazed... even forgot it was time to report in.

No! Think about morale. If we ordered a hasty retreat, there'd be a complete breakdown in discipline!

Tanks closing in, sir! Shall we fall back?

I'm pulling the company under your command! Stay here and wait for the armored reinforcements!

Sir! Don't you think...!

I'm going over there! If we lose all our officers, put the 6th and any available sergeants in charge of the platoons!

Lieutenant! Orders for Battalions 4 and 5. All officers and non-commissioned platoon leaders! Prepare for an anti-tank battle!!

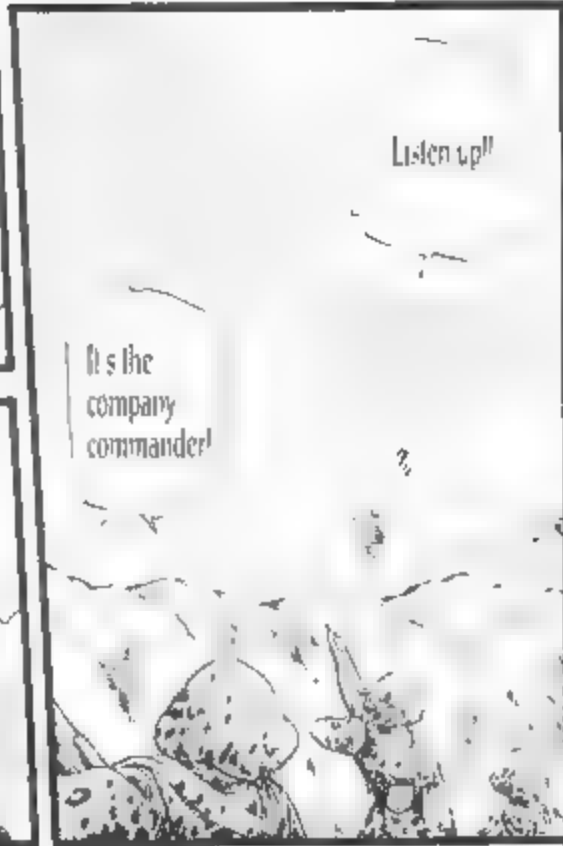
His Majesty's out there somewhere. We're here to find him. What time is it watching us right now? I know he's watching us!





Assemble with
anti-tank blasters

All officers and platoon
leaders Assemble
We've got an anti-tank
battle to fight!



Listen up!!

It's the
company
commander!



Shit! How'd I get to
be platoon leader,
anyway? Take over,
Sargeant! I've had it!

This is the
moment you've
been waiting
for Sargeant!



!!

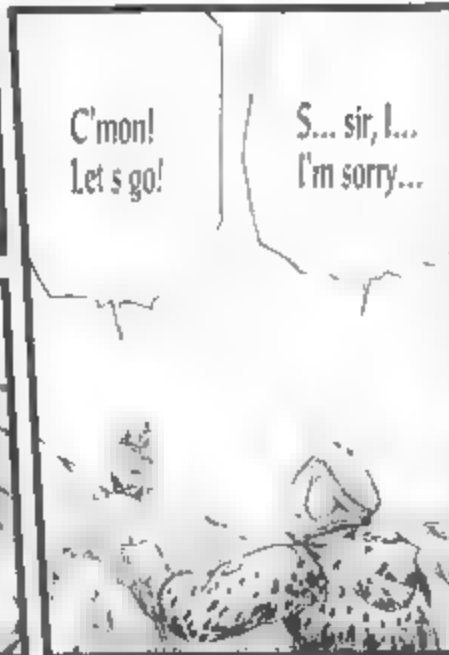


Wow .. the
Battalion
commander's
going, too!

Listen up! We're
gonna attack under
heavy cover fire laid
down by the rest of
the troops!



あッ
あッ



C'mon!
Let's go!

S... sir, I...
I'm sorry...



What's
keepin' you,
Lieutenant?



Where's 3rd
Platoon's
Lieutenant
Schenkling?



Get your sorry ass
outta there, soldier!
You're an AKD officer,
for cryin' out loud!



Get in there and
kick some royal
ass, sir! We're
dependin' on you!

Lieutenant! We're
behind you 100%!
Hurry back! I'm no
platoon leader!



Take over, Sergeant
Dorcas! If worse
comes to worse,
you're in charge of
the whole Company!

That's what
being an officer's
all about... It
sucks, but...



But we've got to suck it
up and lead the charge.
Otherwise, who's
gonna follow us?

You got some
swell men there!
Hell, I wouldn't
wanna go either!

Ja von!!

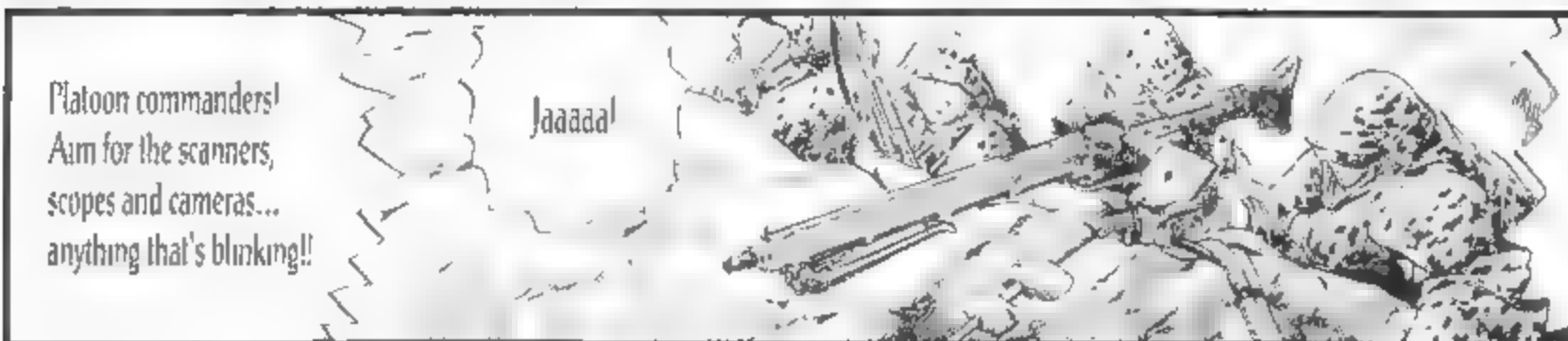


Let's go! Absolutely
no firing until we're
within 150 meters!
Aim for their flanks!



Platoon commanders!
Aim for the scanners,
scopes and cameras...
anything that's blinking!!

Jaaaaa!



Now listen to me! Every-
body goes in together! No
turning back, goddammit!
For the pride of the 2nd!
Are you with me!

Get the armored diggs
in the air... as decoys!!
And put down lots of
smoke screen!



The Biral-Kema and
Maschinen blaster
ready? Fire when
the assault team's
500 meters from
the targets!

In a god forsaken
place like this..
And for what!

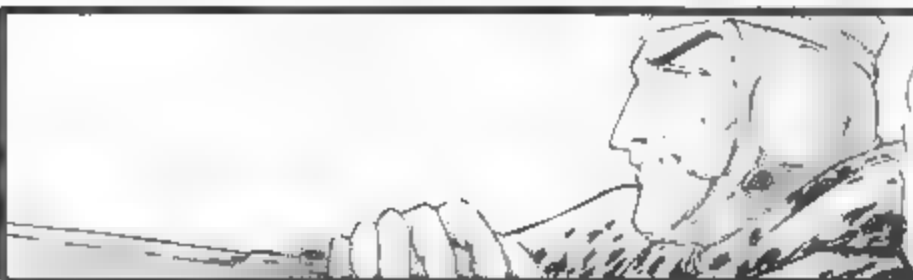


What the hell's going on here!
Have we lost our minds!
How could a group of such
highly trained professional
military leaders push the panic
button like that!

...Even the battalion
commander.. for the
sake of morale.



And get you asses
back here in one
piece, you buncha
commissioned pussies!



Me, too.



Whew! Am I glad
I passed up officer
candidate school!

ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ





Commence
cover fire!
Give 'em hell!



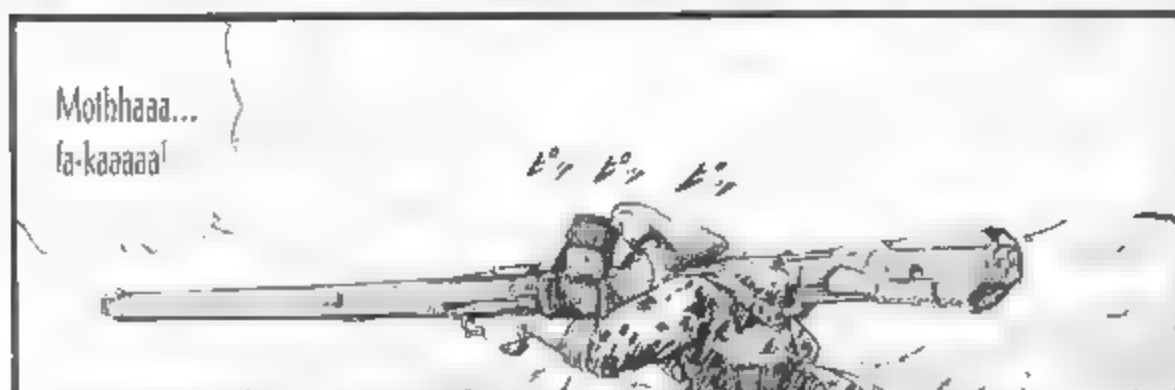
Fire! Fire!



Keep shooting!
Don't let up



Mothhaaa...
la-kaaaaa¹



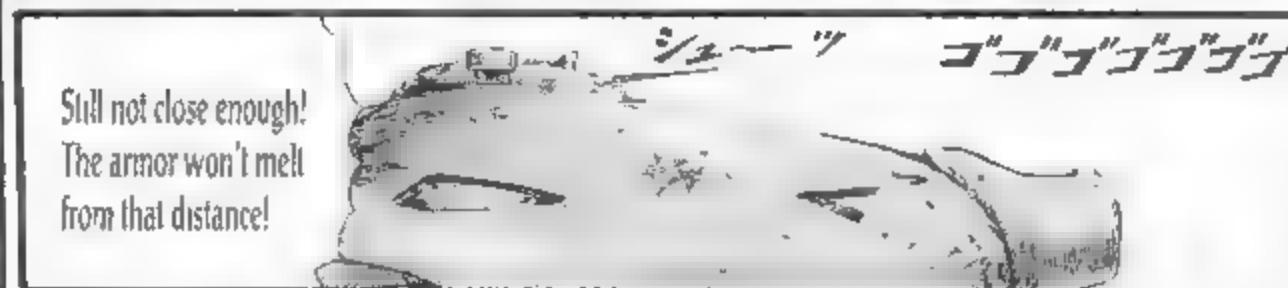


Shit! They're all over the place! Call in the cavalry!

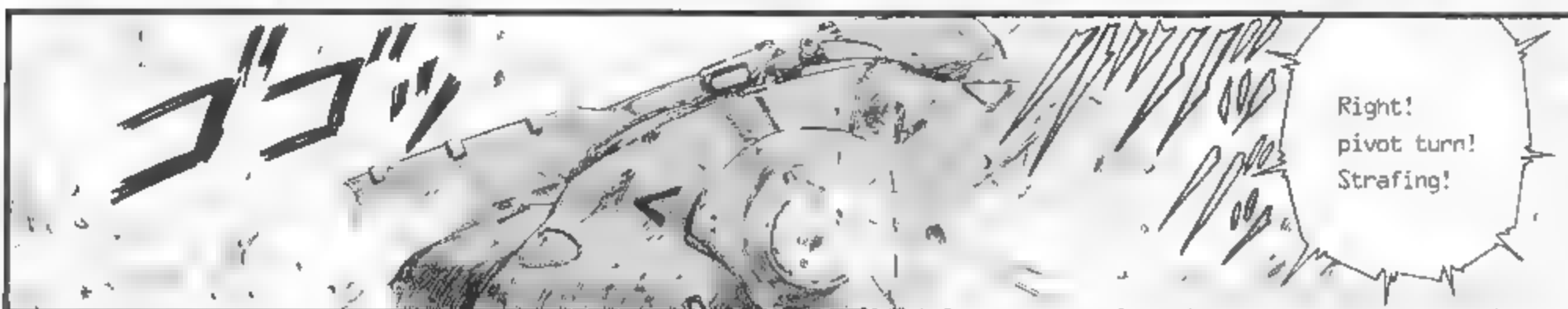


Taking fire on our flank... from ground troop anti-tank beams!!

What!! You mean they're trying to close in? They must be really hyped! Pretty gutsy!



Still not close enough! The armor won't melt from that distance!

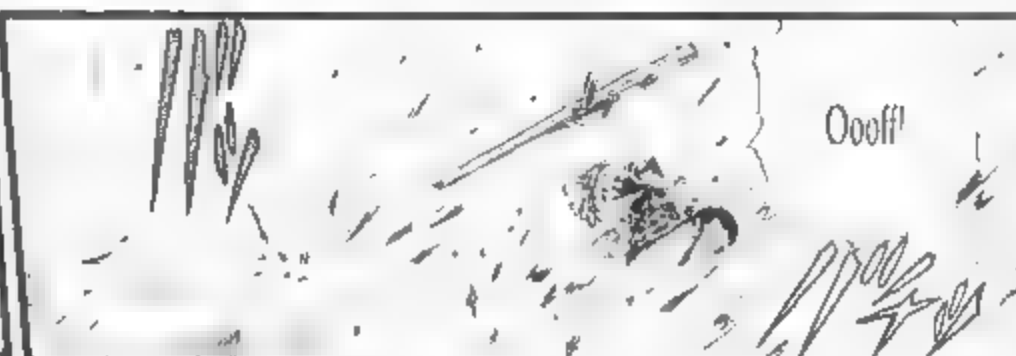


Right! pivot turn! Strafing!



Don't mind me! Aim for his rear end!

Sir!

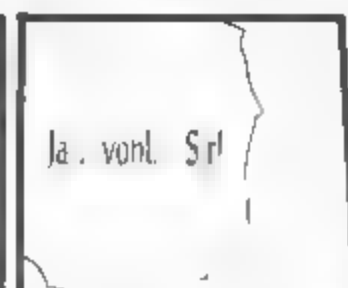


Oooff!

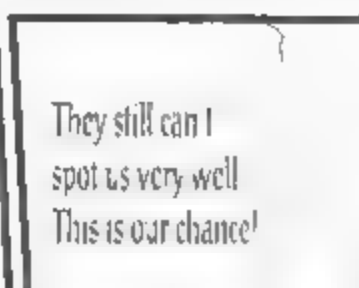


Wait a minute! What's that?

Hey, Sarge! There's Lt. Schenkling! He's on the move



Ja, von! Sir!



They still can't spot us very well! This is our chance!



It's the frick'n' cavalry!

Oh shit! They must've figured out we don't have an heavy anti-tank artillery!





Shit! We had enough of this!

Lieutenant!

Sarge!!



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チツ

Ooofff!



ブイイイイイイイ
ファン ファンファン



Sergeant... Don't go... Please! Sergeant!

Booohooo!



ブイイイイイイ
ゴゴゴゴ

Huh??



Not the cavalry!!

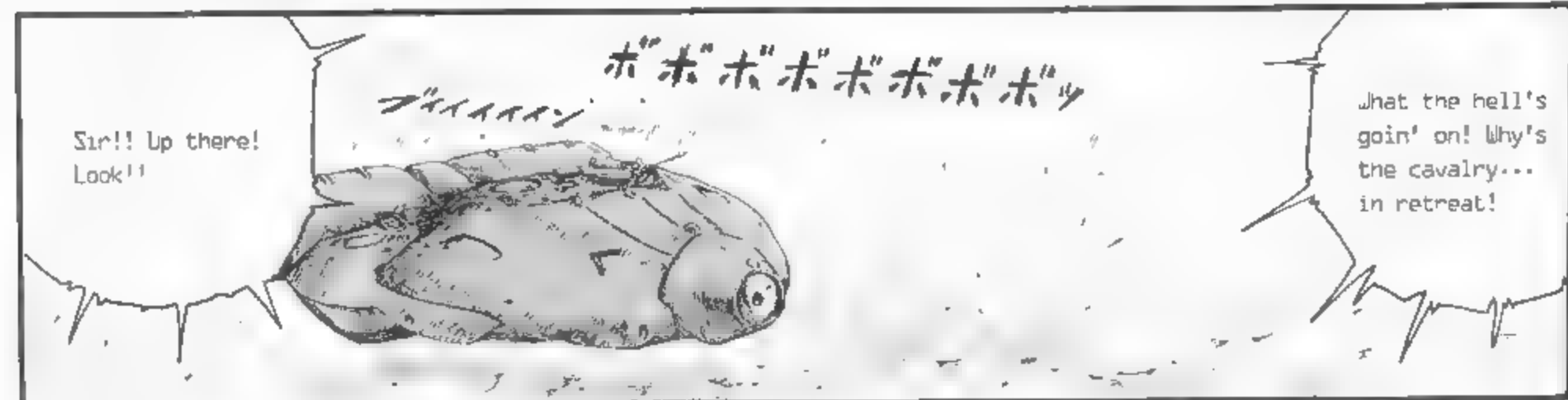


It's up to you now, Lt. Melencamp. We're outta here!

ブイイイイ

ブイイイ
ブイ

All cavalry craft! Fall back! Return to base!



Sir!! Up there! Look!!

ホ"ホ"ホ"ホ"ホ"ホ"ホ"ッ
ブイイイイ

What the hell's goin' on! Why's the cavalry... in retreat!

キイイイイイイイイイイ

ハハハハハハハハハハ

Greetings, 2nd Battalion! Better late than never, as they say? We got troops spread out all over the place. Hard to follow up sometimes. Leave the rest up to me!



ブオオオオオオオオオ

They made it in time! It's Capt. Vasyuchenko's E-75s! The diamond sword and oak leave encrusted Delta Belun Cross... the AKD's most decorated ace!

It's a tank squadron!



Yes, sir!

Here we go! Malakhov! Grigorovich! Headphones in place! Direct hits can be... heh-heh... a little rough on the ears!



I see 'em! Who the hell are they? Flyin' around way up there! Like a buncha amateurs! Drop down another 2000 and I'll blow you boy aviators all outta the sky!



ゴゴゴゴゴゴ

Lt. Merenkampf!
At 7000m! E-75s!

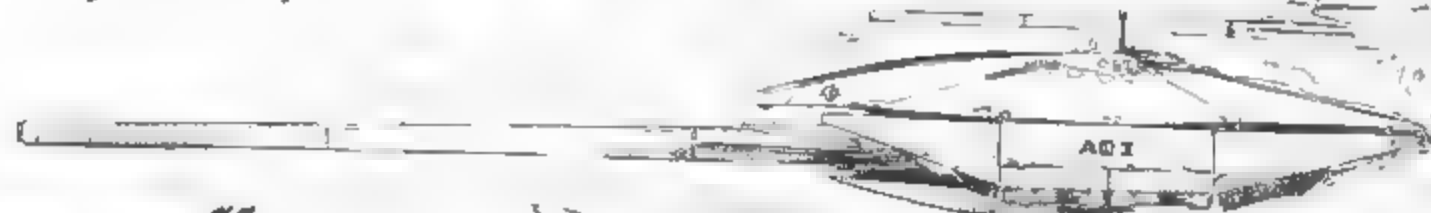
Jesus, Malakhov! Your hatch is open again! How many times do I have to tell you!



Yahoo! Time to dive, boys! As soon as we hit the deck, front barriers at 25 degrees!



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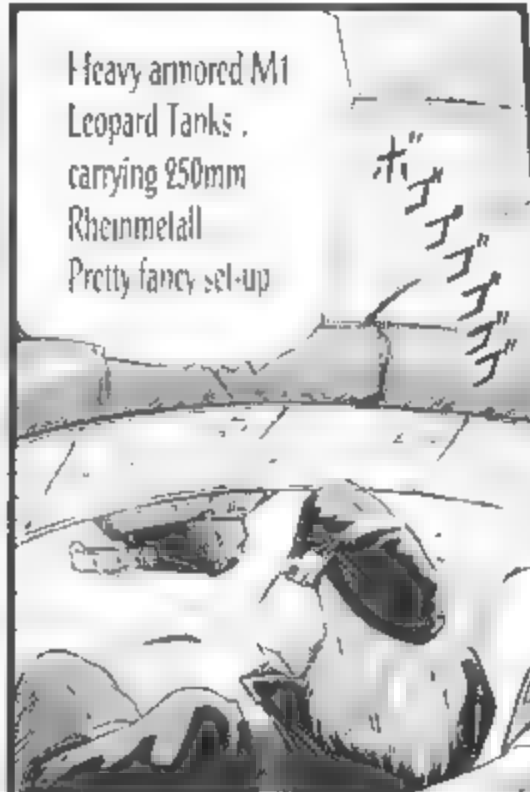
Charge!
Raise guns!
In place on the axial line!

They're obviously superior in aperture and initial speed... and of course they've got a huge reputation.



I've always wanted to see how our 185mm Friedrich Krupps match up to those monsters

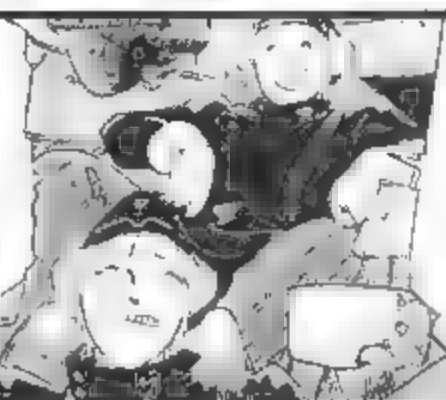
Heavy armored M1 Leopard Tanks, carrying 250mm Rheinmetall. Pretty fancy set-up



They've descended to just outside our effective range!



That's it, Lt. Bol! Straight as an arrow. And let's not get trigger happy!



Burst all that aside. I've got a reputation to keep among the folks back home in Kassel!

However! Electronic sighting is useless against them... We'll have to attack them using direct eye-sighting!!



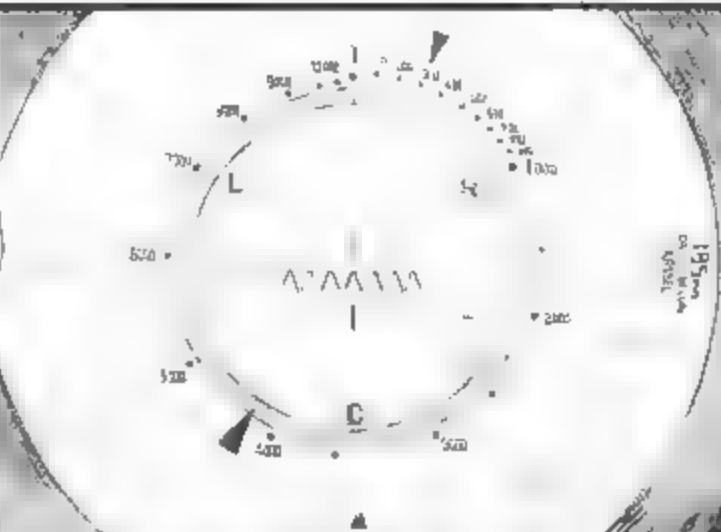
Everybody listen up! The MB's minimum firing distance is 1200m!

MAAARRR

get your sight scopes ready!

You're probably gonna feel naked for a while without 'em... but retract all electronic distance measuring devices... and

You should be reading 4300m! Back in the old days we didn't have gadgets like this... All we had were 7 pixels in the center of the sight to get our Strich* readings



Okay, take a look at your scope! To find your exact distance from the target, the L, C and R points have to be touching the inside of the calibrated circle, right?

No, Sir!

Malakhov in No. 3! You haven't used a sight scope in battle yet, have you?

No more corrections can be made... and the computer can't help us, either!



Trajectory 300/1000... Fixing initial setting to strike enemy tanks at a 30 degree angle of depression** and distance of 1000m.

Enemy at 4000m! All preparing to fire from standing position! Use your veils... Bodies down... Gun angles depressed!

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Everybody maintain position just inside range! Trust in your machines! Aperture 88mm! Barrel pressure 71 times

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*A unit of measurement by which to easily calculate the distance from and size of the target

**This is an effective method when staging an ambush or otherwise concealing your position

...but I'd never
abandon a wounded
comrade in the field



I know you think
I'm a coward

I can't... My legs
You make a run for
it alone, before
they spot us!

Sir! The tanks're
headed this
way! Let's get
outta here!

Whew!

Everybody lock
in on him! Then
we'll go after
the second on
the right!



Enemy at 2000m!
The command
vessel is the
second on the
right... with the
three scanners!

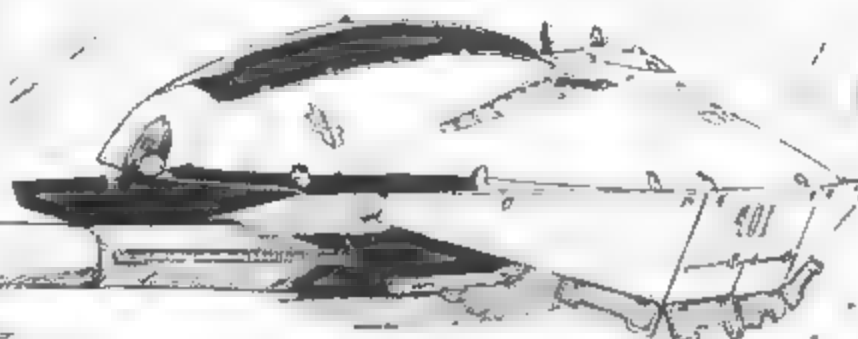
Damn! They're not
projecting very
much to aim at!



Enemy at 1800m!
Aim for the lead
vessel! Commence
sighting!

Fire the
sighting
canon!

Steady as she
goes, boys!
Direct frontal
assault! Do
not alter your
axial lines!



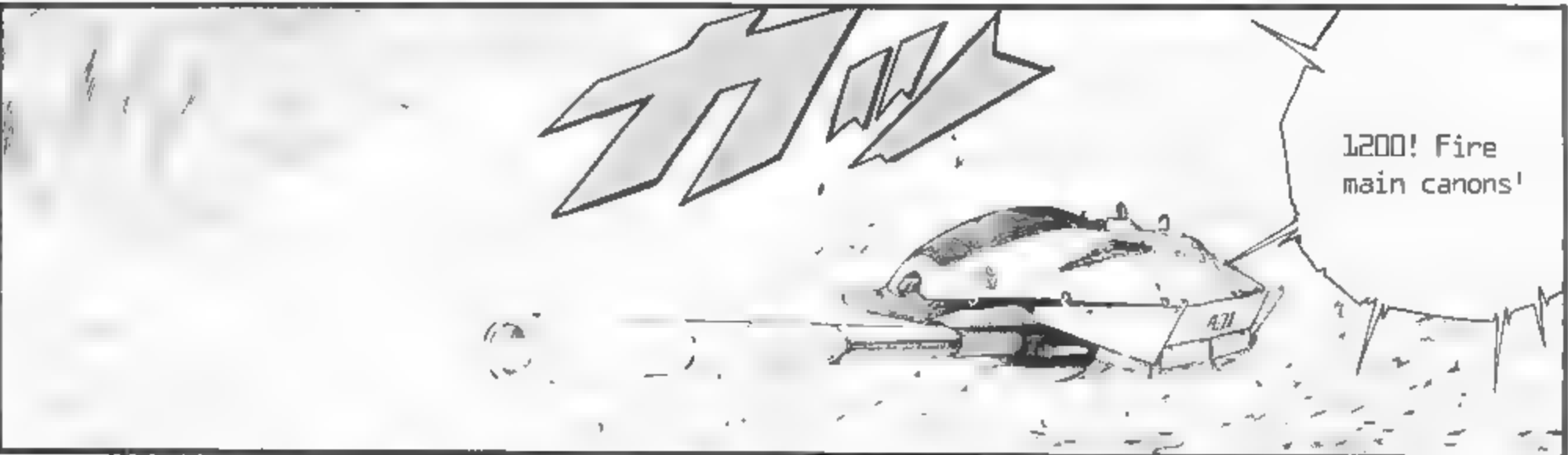


Fire!

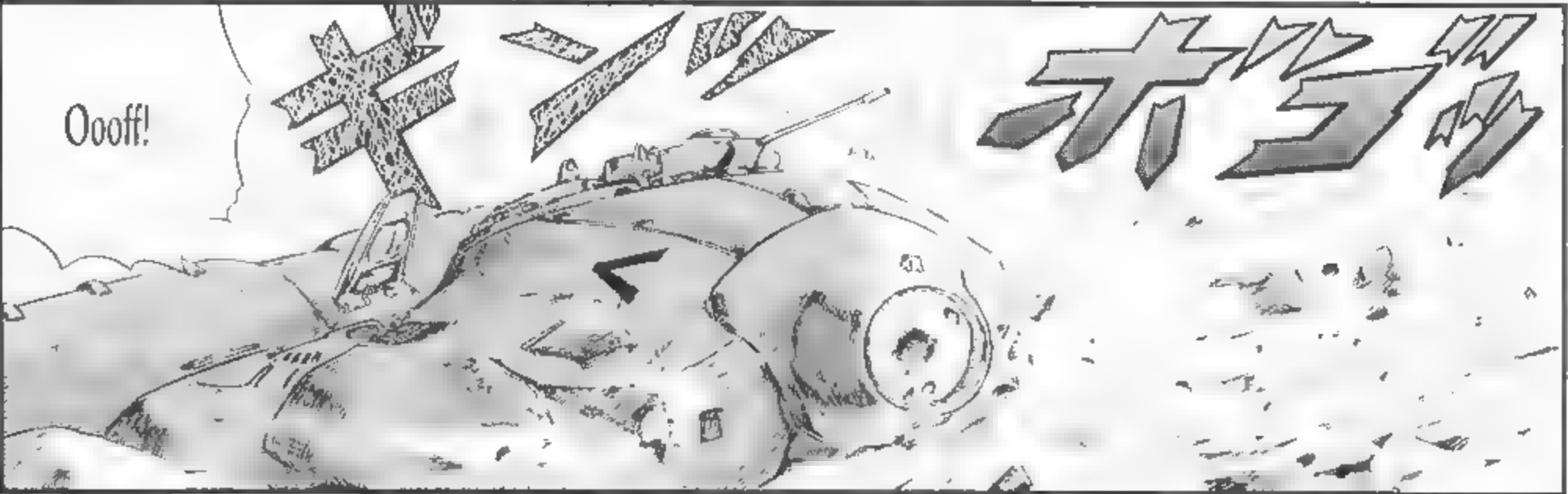


Fall back! Break formation!

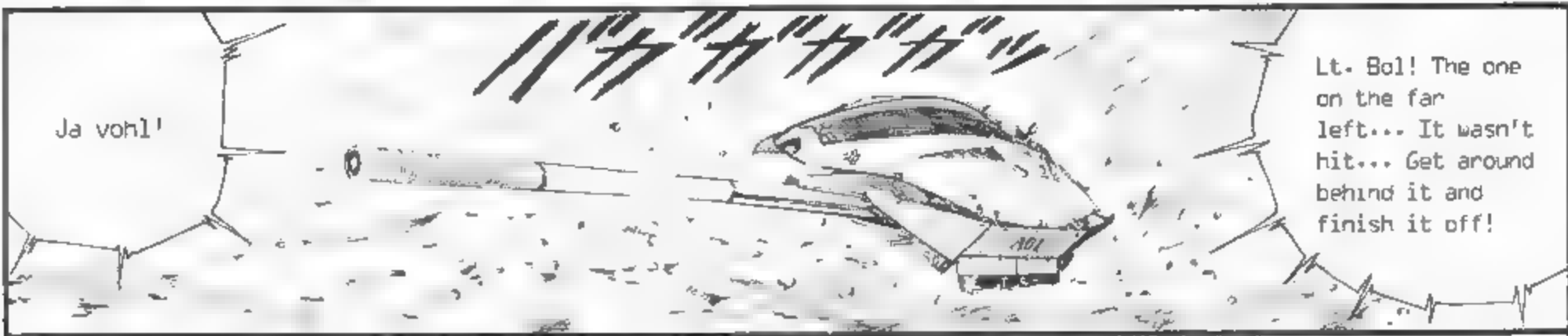
Only grazed him!
At this distance!



1200! Fire
main canons!



Oooff!



The hell with all that... Just fire the damn thing!

Let's see Safety
ah off if its
on there's no
feeling

I... If you
say so

This is our chance,
Schenking! We
can't move... So
we're gonna have
to stand and fight!

Here goes.

Get right up on
that baby... get
angry... and let
em have it!

What the !

ボゴオオオオオ

I... I... hit him!

...Give me a
break, goddammit

Commander Vasyuchenko!
It's headquarters. 2nd
Company has been
surrounded. Immediate
assistance required!

Ha-ha-ha!
Upstaged by an
infantryman,
huh?

That's the
spirit! Now
we're gonna
kick some ass!

Guns back
on their
carriages
for cooling!

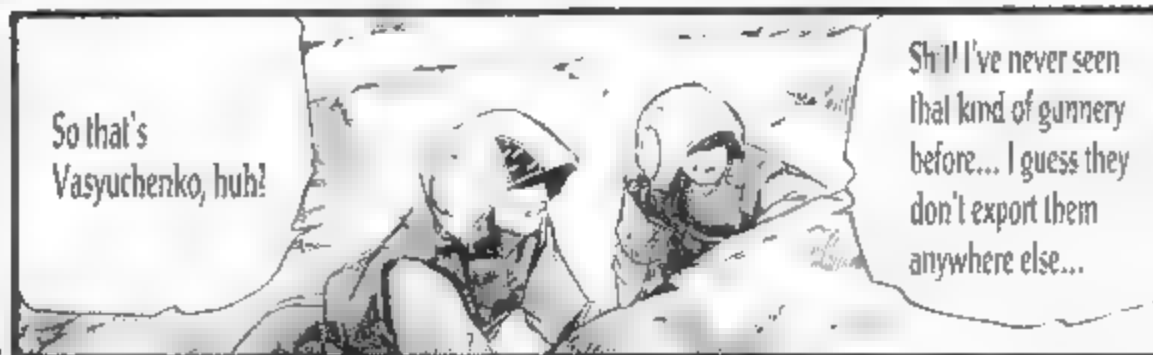
Returning to
base! We'll
pick up those
foot soldiers
on the way!



Is that you, Lt. Fyan?
You alright? I'm sorry
I can't give you any
more assistance...
Hop in! I'll take you
back to your company.



Strange... What's
the AKD's crack
troops... doing in
a place like this!



So that's
Vasyuchenko, huh?

Sh! I've never seen
that kind of gunnery
before... I guess they
don't export them
anywhere else...



Wow!

Didja see that!
That was our
platoon leader
out there!

Hooray!



Hmmmm...
Hell of a job!

Sir! Don't you think
Schenkling's in line
for a first class Cross
of Honor? I think
you should put him
in for one!



On second thought... what if
the platoon leader goes gung-
ho... and starts volunteering
as for suicide missions?



C'mon... Let's
go welcome
the hero of
the day

No way He
doesn't have
it in him...



I'll consider it
when we get
back... if we
get back...

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ズーン... ホゴオオオオ

11° 11°44° 11°11°11°



Shait!

4th Battalion's not
lookin' so hot right
now... that's for sure.
Only one tank in
operation...

Can't make contact
with either company
on our flanks...
I guess it's every
man for himself!

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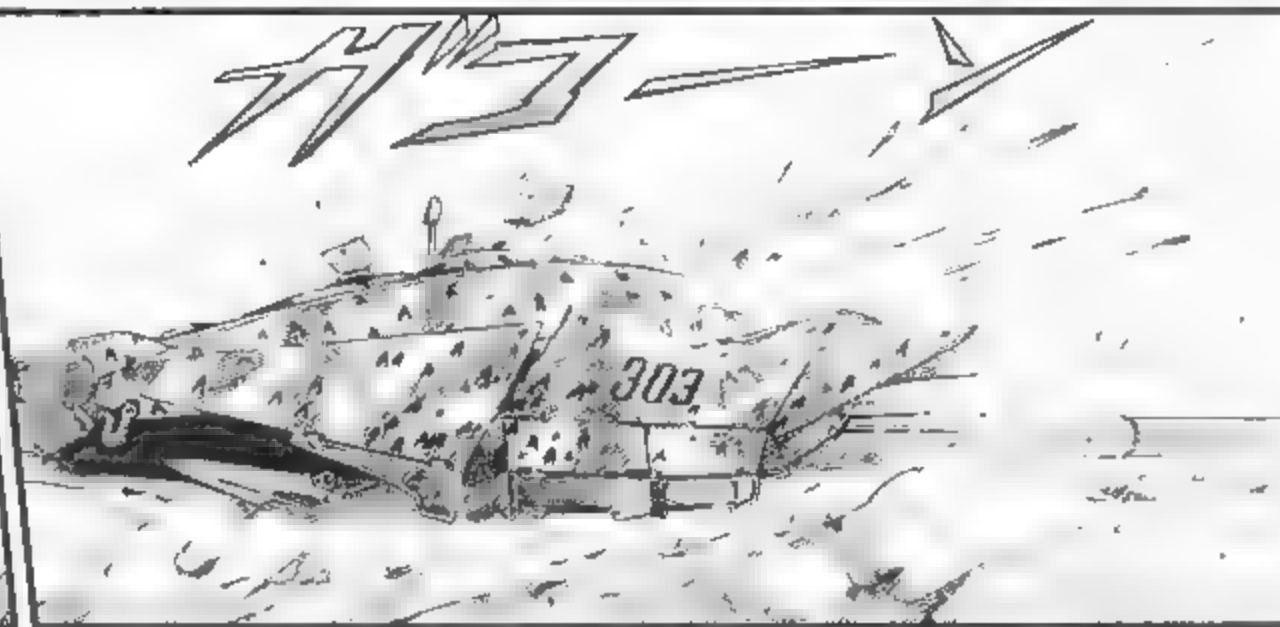
ボムッ

バオオオオオ



We're screwed! 10th
Company's line's
been broke! Let's
get outta here!

That was our
last tank.



Get your asses back
here.. Fight like
soldiers, goddamit!
Get some anti-tank
beams up here!

ボゴーン

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Aaaaaahhhh!

C'mon! You call
yourself Imperial
Guards!

ブイイイイ
ブイイイイ
ブイイイイ

!!

Aye-aye, sir

Sergeant! Take a message to
all the platoons! Tell them
I'm leaving it up to them
whether to retreat or escape

Shut!

ボツ

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ブイイイイイ
ブイイイイイ

ブイイイイイ

Don't leave us
behind... Please...
Somebody! Help!!

ゴオオオオオオ

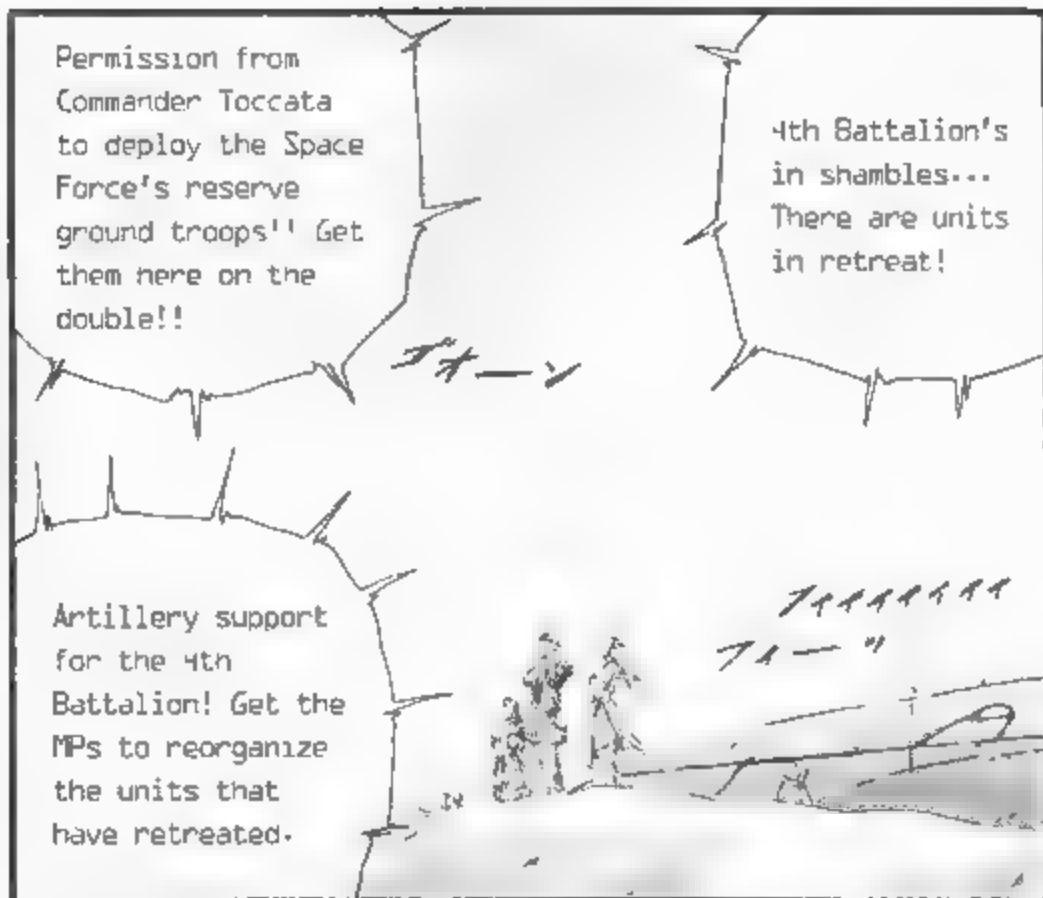
Fall back!
Retreat!!

バンブ!!



Of course!

I'm going to the front.
You coming, Commander?



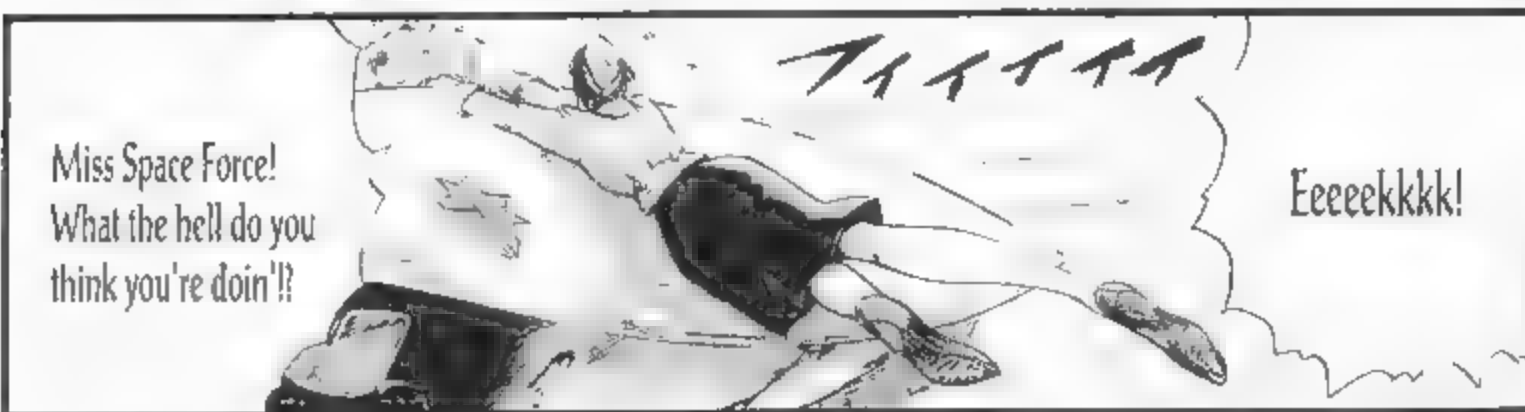
Permission from Commander Toccata to deploy the Space Force's reserve ground troops!! Get them here on the double!!

4th Battalion's in shambles... There are units in retreat!



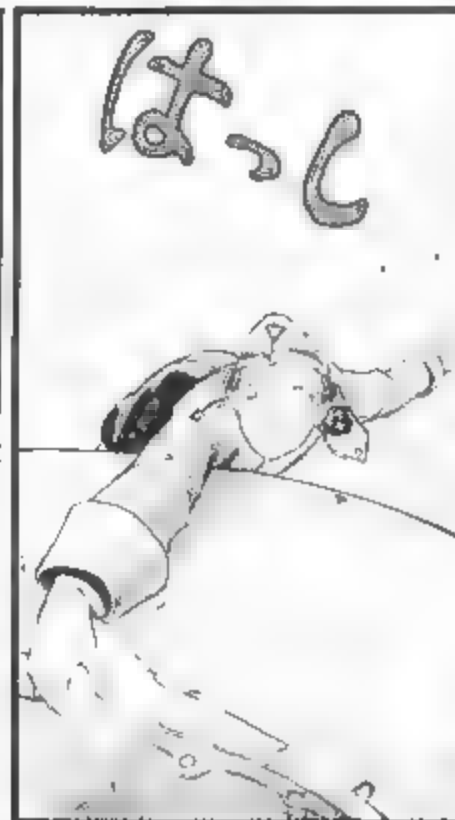
Commander! Take me with you!

Artillery support for the 4th Battalion! Get the MPs to reorganize the units that have retreated.

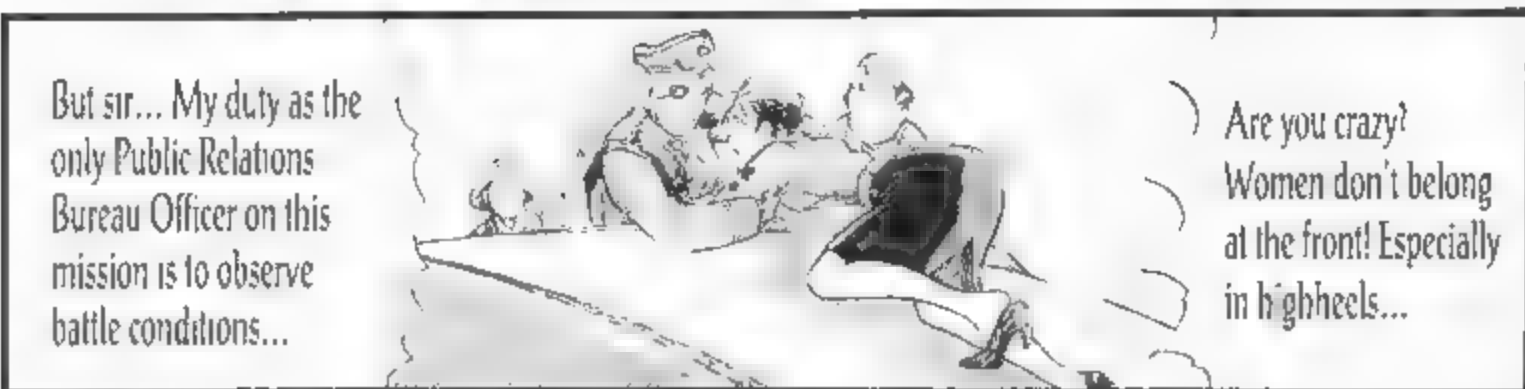


Miss Space Force! What the hell do you think you're doin'!!

Eeeeeekkkk!



はっ

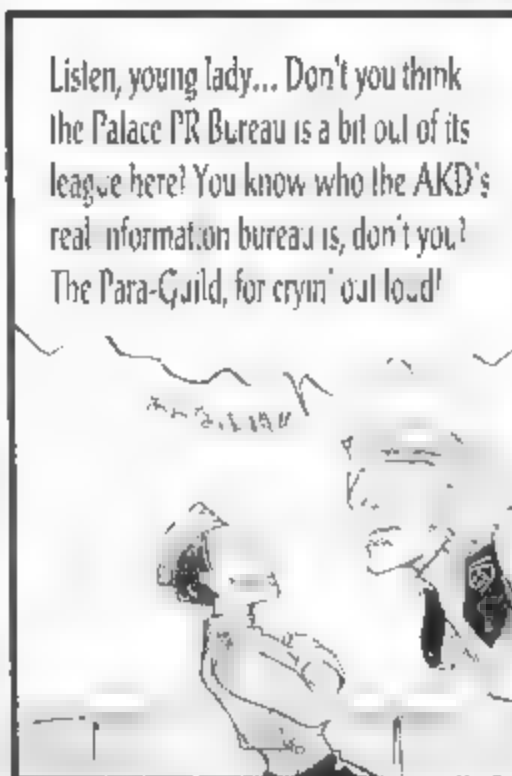


But sir... My duty as the only Public Relations Bureau Officer on this mission is to observe battle conditions...

Are you crazy? Women don't belong at the front! Especially in highheels...



I beg to disagree. Sir Public Relations forms an integral part of AKD operations!



Listen, young lady... Don't you think the Palace PR Bureau is a bit out of its league here? You know who the AKD's real information bureau is, don't you? The Para-Guild, for cryin' out loud!



Hmmm. What exactly is a member of the Bureau of Palace Affairs staff doing on the Mil? In that sense, you're nothing by a stowaway



...The next thing I know... we were at sea! What was... sniff... I supposed to do!... boohooo!

No! I happened to be over at the Mil. . delivering some papers and coffee

Such valuable information is the result of the blood and tears shed by our hard-working Bureau agents. . . I had no idea you military people were so unaware...



And the Atowights Mr. Syke. He has to have at least 20cm thick pillow in order to get a good night's sleep. And if there's not a supply of Tootsie Pops around, it takes forever for Prince Sche to make his budget decisions.

For example. . . Lord Paiz of the House of Passlok gets very upset if you don't add 10% flavor to the Lenox.



What I heard is that there wasn't anything for me to do at the Bureau, so they told me to hang around the Joint Chief and look busy.



Eeek! Tsk! My name is Elena Kunagecva...

...or whatever this Space Force Dog of the Year's name is!

Somebody shoot this bitch... Funiyaka... Cognac...

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There's been no order to retreat!



Stop right there, soldiers.



Stop! Or I'll shoot



I can't take it anymore! I wanna go home!

Nooo!



You're disobeying a direct command! Get back to the front! Those who don't comply will be shot. Commander's order!



Think of your duty
to the Emperor
and his subjects!



Get back to the front! You're
supposed to be the elite
Imperial Guard! All the other
units are risking their lives!



Shooting your
own men in the
back... Murdering
Gestapo pigs!



Fuck the
Emperor!



The Military Police
has better things to
do than quell mutiny
among the elite 1st
Imperial Division!
Stop making trouble.



I am going to consider
these deaths war
casualties... But from
now on... anyone who
continues this nonsense
will be shot as a deserter!



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Murdering
bastards...
They're power
crazy... Out their
fucking minds...



Please! Remind yourselves how important this operation is to the very existence of the AKD Federal on! Your homeland is in danger! Only you can defend it. I and every other officer in this division will continue to fight, to the death. I need be until our mission is completed!



Men! Listen to me! I understand how difficult it is for you to keep up your spirits under such conditions!

You are our only means of saving the AKD until the MHs are deployed.

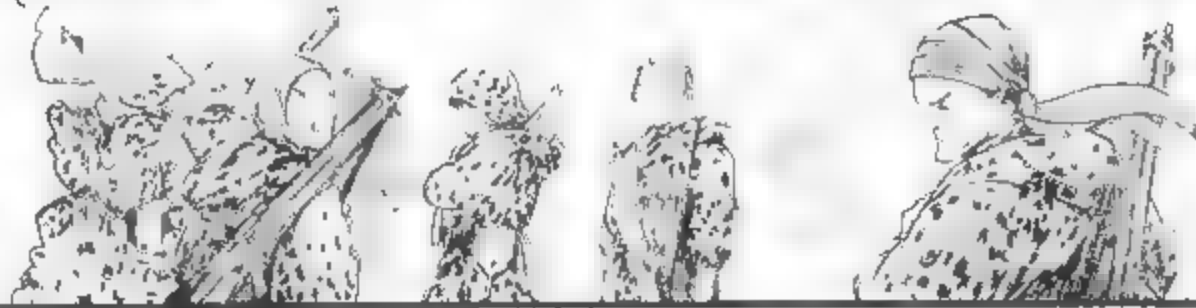


I'm not asking you, the cream of the AKD armed forces, to sacrifice your lives! What I'm asking you to do is to dig in here for a little while longer!



Please!

After all... we're just grunts... what gives us the right to know why we're here... huh?

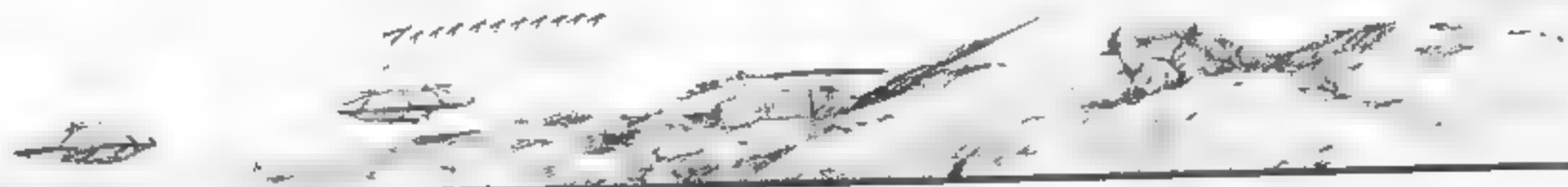


Fall in. We're on the 9th Company. Get your weapons.



Wish I were one of them staff officers... You get to know everything that's going on... And you get to bring your girlfriend to the front with you.

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Make sure that every corpse just isn't taken! Two or three shots for each one!



Put the heavily wounded out to the misery. We are not taking prisoners and have no time for medical care!



I can only wonder how much longer we are going to be forced to accompany them on this journey... filled with such strife, misery and grief.



Why is this species bent on continuing such carnage right up until its extinction..

At least... give us the choice to live or die...



Unable to speak our minds... programmed only to follow and obey... Will they ever give us peace... Will they ever allow us the eternal repose we long for!

Someone... anyone...
please... put an end to
such tales that cut the
threads of Fortune..

What we fatmas
want is... the end...
the final day...



To be continued....

- IC 3230 Amaterasu requests the countries of Kallamity Godarce to join the AKD, but for owing the lead of the Fillmore Empire, which boasts the planet's longest and most illustrious history, they ignore the request.
- IC 3234 Amaterasu launches a modest invasion of Kallamity Godarce, but is met with strong resistance by a united defense force that has thoroughly studied his military strategy and tactical procedures.
- IC 3236 The Mirage Knights join the invasion of Kallamity Godarce as the war bogs down.
- IC 3239 Saint approaches Kallamity, which experiences violent upheavals in the planet's crust and chaotic magnetic fluctuations. Rescue and emigration from Kallamity is stepped up. Amaterasu boards the Knight of Gold and leads the entire Mirage Knight corps in an all-out attack on the Fillmore Empire: it is the last action anyone will take on this planet doomed to destruction by the approach of Saint. During the attack KOC stalls on a shore where crossing Lake Nimb doug, and just before Kallamity explodes, Amaterasu is ejected to safety, leaving the MFI and Lachesis stranded on the Lake. In order to lessen the shock from the impending volcanic explosion, KOC uses the euster launcher to dig a 5000 kilometer crater in the planet's crust and drops a shock resistant geological bomb into the Lake. However, nothing can save Lachesis from the explosion, as she and KOC are blown somewhere out on the dimensional edge.
- IC 3330 The Battle of Kallamity is spectacularly concluded, and survivors from the defeated Kallamity forces move to the Planet of Graves, where they commence anti-Amaterasu resistance activities.
- IC 3333 Amaterasu, upon consent from the only non-AKD planet, Iuno, is enthroned as emperor of the Ioker Galaxy.
- IC 3345 The LFD Dragon awakens.
- IC 3400-3900 Mortar head manufacture is slowed by natural resource scarcity. The leader of Iuno, King Colus V, begins a large scale program to improve his country's MFI force led by the Berins. Because the outcome of any battle is invariably decided by a clash of MFI's, the anti-Amaterasu resistance forces scattered throughout the Galaxy assist in his efforts.
- IC 3910 The knights of the anti-Amaterasu resistance gather on Iuno. Amaterasu reveals plans to conquer Iuno.
- IC 3952 Amaterasu launches his last expeditionary invasion and heads for Iuno. A messenger is dispatched from Beth to Amaterasu. It is Atropos.
- IC 3960 The heir apparent to the Colus Dynasty, Colus VI, escapes to Beth with the help of Alenta princess of Baranka. The three royal families of the Colus Dynasty exsanguinate and scatter to the four corners of the Galaxy. The Black Knight Grand Sydmun, in the employ of the Colus Dynasty, conceals luncheon and Clotha deep in the thick forests of the continent of Bor-shou.
- Grand Sydmun is killed by a Mirage Knight while trying to escape. Amaterasu establishes the Union of Galactic Kingdoms. Atropos teams up with Mirage Knight headliner Upandla Raymu.
- IC 3967 Amaterasu entrusts all of his authority to his cat's paw, Upandla Raymu, a latima created by Dr. Radanche, and retires into seclusion. At the same time, F.U. Rogner and the other Mirage Knights are clustered and sealed.
- IC 3968 Empress Runka, a remnant of the Colus Dynasty's Meisner family, gives birth to Dazina, then dies at the hand of Amaterasu. Dazina disappears.
- IC 3996 Amaterasu becomes deeply concerned over his aging latimas and puts them to sleep. Galaxy MFI continue to switch over to the non-humanoid Ecloramura latimas, and humanoid latimas rarely appear in public. The headliner population is also decreasing. In a galaxy controlled by a single, oppressive ruler, Upandla, the number of mortar headliners is also on the decrease, becoming superannuated and decrepit. This year marks the beginning of Upandla's reign of terror.
- IC 4044 Dazina Meisner finds her way to Kastenpo on Beth.
- IC 4050 Dazina Meisner meets Colus VI, who is working for the anti-Amaterasu resistance in Kastenpo.
- IC 4061 After wandering aimlessly throughout the Galaxy, Colus VI is awakened to his headliner heritage after being shown the mortar headliners that have been mastered for the resistance.
- IC 4062 Colus begins training for combat, and the many knights he meets seem also to be descendants of his ancestors' generations of headliners.
- IC 4075 Luncheon and Clotha are discovered, but Clotha remains sealed and will not awaken.
- IC 4076 Colus VI meets Wey Koulath, possibly another headliner descendant.
- IC 4080 Civil war breaks out on Iuno, and Colus VI takes command of the anti-Amaterasu resistance forces in the conflict.
- IC 4082 An Amaterasu mortar headlin, Wurverschalze defects to Colus' side.
- IC 4088 Headliners and latimas who have been hiding throughout the Galaxy flock to Colus' side.
- IC 4090 Colus liberates Beth. After the devastation of AKD forces invading Kastenpo by an LFD Dragon inferno, the Upandla regime gradually loses control of the situation, initiating the decline and fall of the AKD, but Amaterasu refuses to step in.
- IC 4093 Civil war breaks out on Delta Betan.
- IC 4100 The Floating Temple, the symbol of the AKD, is destroyed. Colus, Luncheon and Upandla's Knight of Gold engage on the battlefield. Two tales hurry to the fray. Delta Betan is consumed in the quasar inferno of the LFD Dragon.
- Amaterasu returns to Colus VI, the sword he received from Colus II, signifying Colus VI as the true heir to the Colus dynasty. The citizens of Delta Betan leave the planet along with the Mirage Knights in The Wall, in search of Lachesis. The "god of light" has found them.
- IC 4101 Colus VI liberates the Galaxy.
- IC 4103 Colus VI marries Dazina.
- IC 4255 Colus VI passes away at the age of 100.
- IC 4300 The mortar headliners gradually fall into disfavor. The headliners also gradually disappear, some taking the latimas with them, some alone. The era of war and destruction goes on, as the world continues its regression towards the pre-meval.

(The Era of the The Will Galaxy)*

- IC 5899 On an unknown planet, The Knight of Gold is transformed into a meteorite and crashes.
- IC 6599 Lachesis awakens and with the Knight of Gold joins a space war with another civilization. In the aftermath, uncontrollable bursts of energy from KOC hurl them again and again into time gaps and lost abysses.
- IC 6787 In one planetary war, Lachesis is unable to activate the Knight of Gold, so this incomparable latima takes command of a great cyborg weapon called an Imperian to continue the fight.
- IC 6800 Amaterasu sends the MFI Great Mirage, also known as Magdall Chivalries.
- IC 6850 Amaterasu and Lachesis, each on their own, travel from planet to universe encounter new human species and life forms.
- IC 7099 Lachesis lands on a mechanized planet and repairs the Knight of Gold.
- IC 7281 Amaterasu converses with the Obelisk Monument, which seems to contain a memory of people from the Ioker Galaxy.
- IC 7343 Lachesis suddenly finds herself on Earth in Poland during January 945. She hides the Knight of Gold in the Baltic Sea and goes to fight in the Battle of Berlin. On 7 May she leaves the Division Nordmann for France, then returns to the Baltic Sea and falls asleep.
- IC 7451 Lachesis awakens on the Earth year of 2187 and returns to space.
- IC 7563 Lachesis transcends time to appear in the Ioker Galaxy in R. 2043. She meets the 25-year-old prince of Greece, Amaterasu. After planting a memory of their encounter, she leaves the Galaxy.
- IC 7777 Lachesis and Amaterasu are reunited on the emerald planet of Fortune and are married. They bear a daughter, Kallen, and the human species begins a new phase in its evolution.

*Time in the The Will era is measured in the years actually passed by Akiak.

Chronology

[Last Millennia of the AD Era]

- AD 4000** Luna is discovered. Both is reclaimed and colonized. An alliance of imperial families founds the super-empire Farus Die Kannarn.
- AD 5000** Reign of the "Blazing Empress." The Galaxy establishes all disciplines of pure science. The rise of intimidating warriors and powerful wizards. Invention of the most destructive weapon known to man, the buster launcher.
- AD 6000** Height of interstellar exploration. Continuous intergalactic wars cause such devastation to existing races and cultures that the human species becomes incapable of retaining its historical legacy in fact.
- AD 8000** A geophysical world of four solar systems begins to take form. Reclamation of planets take place on a galactic scale, as the deserts of Addler and Pyslako, the closest planet to its sun, are made inhabitable.
- AD 9800** Interstellar exploration reaches an impasse, and space adventurers return to their home planets. The influence of Farus Die Kannarn wanes, as new independent states rise. Buster control technology is perfected. Popularization of the external combustion "ezlazer" engine, a technical spin-off from buster launcher know-how.

[The Joker Millennia]*

- IC 0001** Stabilization is achieved on the planets of the Galaxy's four solar systems, as interplanetary diplomatic agreements are negotiated and enacted, marking the beginning of the Joker Era. At this point in time, however, human civilization reaches its pinnacle and begins its descent. The Joker Galaxy enters an era of senescence and decline. A civilization that once advanced into the outer reaches of the universe, experiencing growth speeds exceeding light, and sought existence beyond the three dimensions is slowing down. The human race is now in a process of reverse evolution. From this point on, there will be no sign of significant historical change, even in millennial terms.
- IC 0980** Birth of the mortar head, a battle machine modeled after the human anatomy and designed in the artistic style of science and engineering.
- IC 2020** In the Kingdom of Gyres on eastern Delta Belon, the second planet in the Eastern Solar System, the infant Amaterasu Dis Grand Gyres Eya's IV is born and destined to become the kingdom's 14th monarch.
- IC 2026** Scientific genius Urannam Balance publishes his research on organic humanoid computer systems.
- IC 2040** Emperor Amaterasu uses his exquisite beauty and charm along with his superior intellect to gain unwavering support from the people of Delta Belon's eastern bloc of countries.
- IC 2067** Amaterasu and Lira are married. Lira will die childless at the young age of 140, equivalent to 25 years of age in earthling time. On the average, humans of the Joker Galaxy live to the age of around 300.

- IC 2135** Amaterasu makes improvements in the ezlazer, external combustion engine used throughout the Galaxy to generate heavy energy.
- IC 2200** The beginning of a century of frequent international disputes and military aggression, promoted in part by the mortar head's ability to minimize casualties and destruction of property in the process of territorial expansion.
- IC 2310** A data processor greatly improving the control of mortar heads is developed by the mad scientist Lithium Balance. It is called the "fat ma," an artificial life-form physiologically identical to human beings.
- IC 2324** Amaterasu is enthroned as the ruler of Gyres at the age of 304. Over a thirty-year period he has contributed much to the cause of international peace among the countries of Delta Belon.
- IC 2397** Despite his 377 years, Amaterasu has remarkably not aged significantly since reaching adulthood.
- IC 2400-** Amaterasu's Eastern Solar System and the Northern Solar System, which is ruled by large and powerful countries, attain a state of relatively peaceful coexistence, while the smaller countries scattered throughout the Southern and Western Solar Systems remain in political turmoil. It is a time of mass production of both mortar heads and talmas.
- IC 2629** Amaterasu makes the acquaintance of the scientific genius Chrome Ballanche.
- IC 2810** Amaterasu spends ten years recruiting a corps of superior headliners to act as his imperial guard and names them the Mirage Knights.
- IC 2813** Amaterasu's imperial guards are organized into an order of knights known as the First Eastern Mirage Corps, which is given command of the all the imperial armed forces, and charged with employing their mortar heads in quelling international military incursions.
- IC 2875** Amaterasu unites the ten eastern countries surrounding the Kingdom of Gyres. Similarly, in the Southern Solar System, Colus II, ruler of the super power on the planet Luna, forms the kingdoms on his borders into the Colus Dynasty. Colus III is born.
- IC 2878** Amaterasu is appointed planetary president of Delta Belon.
- IC 2899** Amaterasu unites Delta Belon into an organization called Amaterasu Kingdom Deemes (hereafter AKD). The report of this action is greeted with surprise and apprehension throughout the Galaxy. Dr. Ballanche completes the AKD flagship battle cruiser Bel-Crean.
- IC 2900-** A scarcity of natural resources in the Galaxy reaches critical proportion, and some synthetic materials that have existed for thousands of years begin to transform or deteriorate. Kal-amity Godarce, the second planet in the Northern Solar System, begins to transform under the influence of its own planetary reclamation activities. Amaterasu is 880 years old.
- IC 2955** Completion of Amaterasu's rookery palace, the

- Floating Temple, an island 2.5 kilometers across hovering 3000 meters in the atmosphere above the planet.
- IC 2987** One of the Galaxy's most authoritative scientists, Dr. Ballanche, decides that a talma debut will not be held for Atropos, one of his "three fates of destiny," and allows her to escape.
- IC 2988** Dr. Ballanche's final two talmas, Lachesis and Clotho, come of age. Amaterasu acquires Lachesis, while Clotho is taken into the care of Luna's King Colus III.
- IC 2989** Three leading edge mortar heads, called LED Mirages, join the forces of the Colus Dynasty against neighboring aggressor, Hagooda. MI-1meister Laidis Kopp is entrusted with the jeweled sword of the Colus Royal Family, and the royal family's MI-1 luncheon is sealed shut with Clotho inside.
- IC 2992-** Atropos begins 350 years of seclusion with an infant LED Dragon.
- IC 2994** Magdall and Depre are born in the Republic of Flahula in the Western Solar System.
- IC 3007** The LED Mirage fleet and Amaterasu's Knight of Cloud are exhibited before the Galaxy's second phase of the Mirage Knights.
- IC 3009** Completion of the heavy MI-1 sized Mirage, known as the "monster of the Mirage Knights" due to its dual buster cannon design.
- IC 3010** The "Majestic Stand" begins, and the Galaxy is thrown into greater political turbulence than it has ever experienced.
- IC 3079** Princess Magdall is crowned ruler of the Holy Led A-Toll Empire.
- IC 3159** Amaterasu suddenly launches a military attack on the Rent Republic of the neighboring planet of Ac-lier.
- IC 3162** Addler is incorporated into the AKD and becomes Amaterasu's base of military operations, commanding a huge galactic expeditionary force.
- IC 3180** Amaterasu begins construction of the Galaxy's largest space vessel, The Will.
- IC 3185** Construction of The Will is completed, and enthusiasm is heightened among the people over galactic unification. Amaterasu is 1105 years old.
- IC 3199** Amaterasu launches an invasion of Bohl in the Western Solar System. Many of the planet's residents welcome the invasion as the arrival of political stability to a chaotic situation that has continued since the beginning of the Majestic Stand, so Bohl is quickly incorporated into the AKD. However, the region of Kasienpo on the continent of Qmann for some reason is able to retain its former status as a free and autonomous district, and only the Holy Led A-Toll Empire is denied sovereignty.
- IC 3225** The moving solar system of Stant with a 1500-year orbit approaches the Joker Galaxy, and it is predicted that Stant will increase the instability of Kal-amity already caused by mineral resource reclamation.



Cyclommatus metallifer

Lieutenant Colonel and Commander of an Independent Field Operations Military Police Company. The highest ranking officers in the military police are colonels, while lieutenant colonels take actual command of its detachments which are companies of soldiers (50 men) with non-commissioned officer ranks and above (excepting transport personnel). While disliked by most of the other TF divisions, the MPs are a powerful force working behind the scenes.



Commander Meia Toccata

Chief of the General Staff Office of Starfleet's Palace Defense Squadron Command. While we must admit that as a battalion commander and staff officer in the Palace Squadron, this guy is elite all the way... but if you look at the illustration a little closer you will notice that one of three pencils dangling from the braid is a real Eversharp and there's what seems to be a badge of some kind (I imagine a *Sailor Moon* character) on his collar. His career no doubt took off after he appeared in *Five Star Stories*. In ten years he'll probably be a division commander somewhere.

Characters



Fatima Fates
Build

General Piper's partner and the younger sister of Est created by Dr. Morard. She's worried about Kyo's heebie-jeebies and offers to have Doc Morard see what he can do about them.



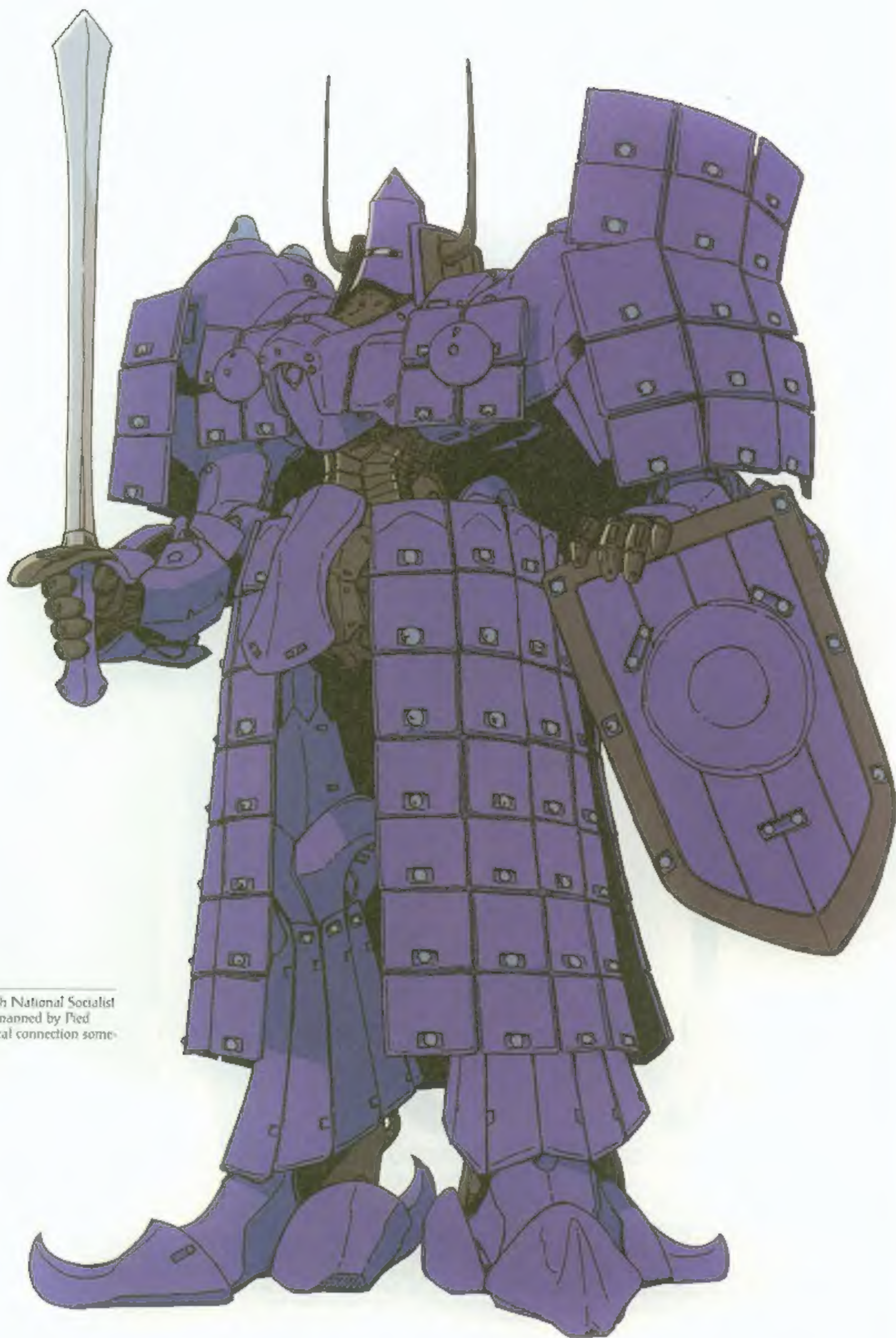
Fatima Fates
Elala

Partner of Vogin de Leibuch. Unlike the Mirage Corps, the Gods fatimas wear uniforms, since they are members of a national corps of headliners under government control, but if you look a little closer you'll find that they come in all sizes and are allowed to improvise somewhat on their basic white on dark gray suits, making them much more interesting than what they may seem at first sight.



Vogin de Leibuch

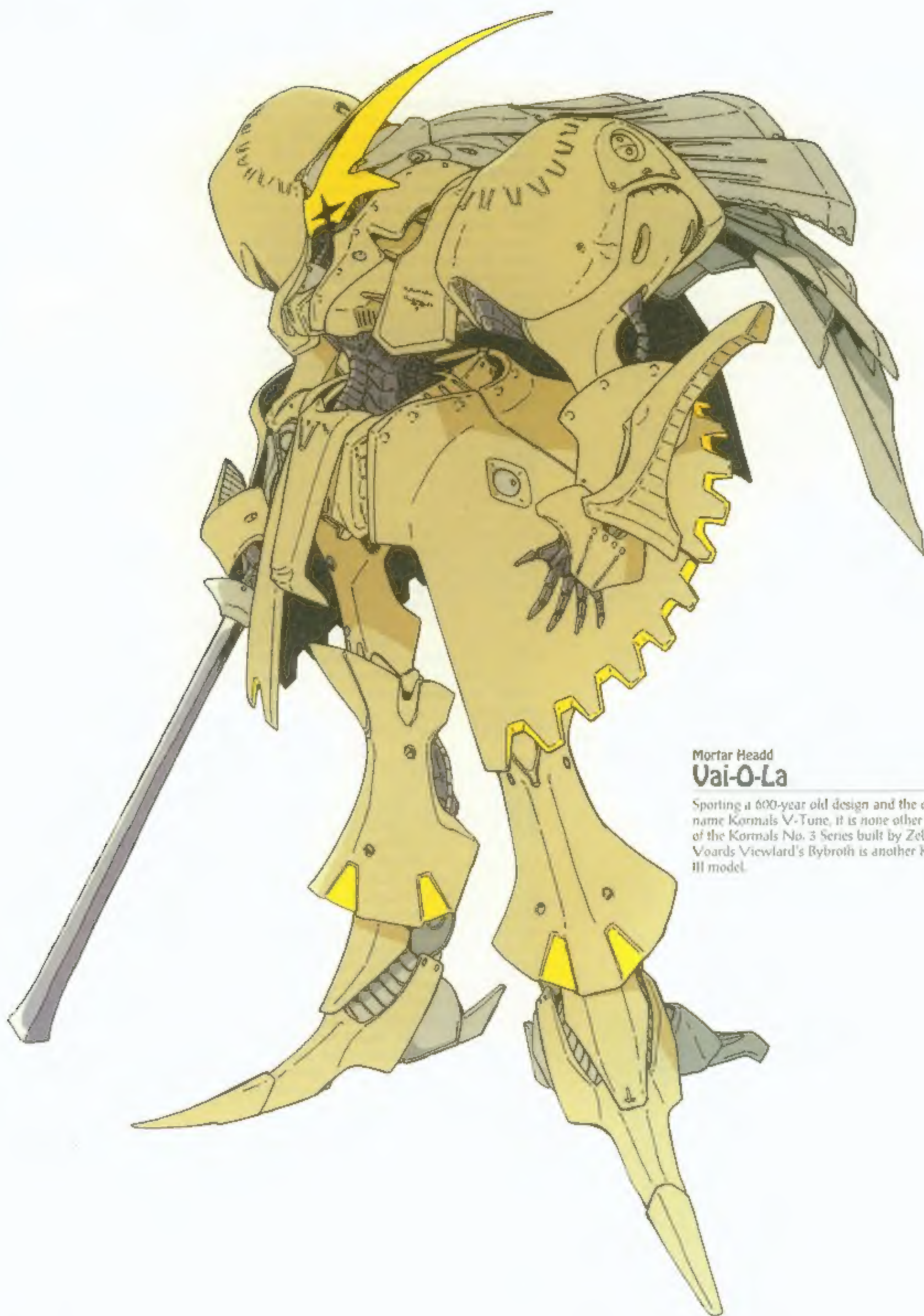
The Gods Headliner. The AKD is a virtual racial melting pot of the meanest headliners (the Gods) around equipped with heavy armored Blood Temple mortar beads.



Mortar Headd

Blue Armor

The main M-I of the Umoth National Socialist Republic. Since they are all manned by Pied Pipers, there may be a political connection somewhere between the two.



Mortar Headd
Vai-O-La

Sporting a 600-year old design and the official name Kormals V-Tune, it is none other than one of the Kormals No. 3 Series built by Zebee Corter. Voards Viewlard's Bybroth is another Kormals III model.

The Five Star Stories VII



Mamoru Nagano is a storyteller, whose narrative style arose strangely enough from his background in the design of character and robot animation for television. The unique characters and mechanical devices that flow out of Mamoru's pen are always in line with the latest mode, which is why they always hit the market in such sensational fashion. His peculiar touch with the pen stems technically from a blend of traditional Japanese ink brush techniques and whatever is happening on the graphic art scene at any particular time, while compositionally his work stems from various fetishistic tendencies. The following is a chronological account of Mamoru's career.

Artist, comic writer, musician, designer, and Macintosh recluse, Mamoru Nagano was born in the city of Maizuru, Kyoto Prefecture in January 1960. In 1984 he made his animation debut as the character designer of the TV cartoon *Heavy Metal L-Gaim*. His first comic, *Fool for the City*, was published in *Newtype* magazine in 1985, followed by *Five Star Stories* serial, which began in 1986. Five stories were completed by 2000, then in spring 2001, Story #6 was begun. *FSS* was first published in paperback by Kadokawa, which released 11 volumes with a total sales of 7 million copies, marking it as a popular long seller among Japanese comic fans. The author's latest work is another animated serial entitled *Brain-Powered*. Much of his work is under copyright of and being published by his own company, TOYSPRESS, Inc.

The Five Star Stories #17

1st printing: January 30, 2004

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The *Five Star Stories*® logotype by Tetuya Asakura/Design CREST.
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Fax: +81-3-3643-9099
E-mail: info@toyopress.co.jp

Item No.: FSS-017
ISBN: 4-86796-507-1 CODE9
First Published 2004 in USA by TOYSPRESS, INC. Tokyo.
Printed in JAPAN

www.toyopress.com

A Vast Tale Promising to Straddle the Centuries

Five Star Stories Vols. I-III



It is the Joker Calendar year J.C. 2988, one of the Galaxy's most prestigious fatima mechts, Dr. Chrome Ballanche, completes the work on his final two masterpieces, Lachesis and Clotho, only to have them taken into custody by the local lord, a depraved upstart merchant by the name of Grand Duke Juba Bardaim who covets the two fatimas to satisfy his outlandish lecheries. Ballanche has no one to turn to for help but his longtime friend Lados Sopp, one of Amaterasu's disguises, to save his two daughters from Juba's slimy clutches. Before the debut at which the two fatimas are to choose their masters, an event rigged by Juba, Clotho makes a run for it, and with the help of Sopp, Voards Viewlard, (the president of the local Trün Union in disguise) and Amaterasu's Mirage Knights, Clotho finds a protector in the warrior-king extraordinaire,

Colus III of the planet Jūno. Then on the day of the debut, Sopp is reunited with Lachesis and they run off together with Juba and his headliner "nephews" Décor and Torrota in hot pursuit. Just as the two elopers are about to be captured, Amaterasu's outrageous mortar headd, the Knight of Gold appears out of nowhere and saves the day. Meanwhile, back at Juba's palace, Voards, now undiguised as President Mission Rouath, makes a thorough investigation of Juba's countless wrongdoings and restores order to his troubled republic.



Five Star Stories Vols. IV-V



The year after the Juba Bardaim incident, J.C. 2989, the kingdoms ruled by Clotho's protector Colus III are suddenly and mysteriously invaded by the neighboring empire of Hagooda, which we find out later is being backed by superpowers from other planets, such as Fillmore on Kallamity and Halhuha on Both. The young Colus III boards his brand new mortar headd, Jūnochoon, for a test run out on the front lines, encounters the mortar headd of a Boowray Mercenary in the employ of Hagooda, and in the battle that ensues loses his beloved fatima Ulicul, who is killed by the Boowray knight while fighting to protect her badly wounded master. This incident slurs Colus' allies throughout the Galaxy, who rush in to join the anti-Hagooda movement that is slowly

welling up all over Jūno. Among the volunteers and mercenaries flowing into the Colus Dynasty's Jarth Airport we find none other than Lados Sopp, who owes a great debt to Colus for his gallantry at the debut held the previous year. There is also a flashback of how Colus and Ulicul first met in J.C. 2957, explaining the bitter resentment held by Vralgo Kentauri of Fillmore towards the King of the Trio de Colus and Vralgo's sworn vendetta.



Five Star Stories Vols. VI-VIII



During the war with Hagooda, the Colus Dynasty palace becomes the gathering place of dignitaries from all over the Galaxy, including Lados Sopp (aka Amaterasu), Voards Viewlard (aka Mission Rouath), the Black Knight and master swordsman Roados Dragoon, and a meeting place for Mirage Knight Sharie Randers and Prince Trao Ballanka, who will eventually marry, the rival fatimas Teala and Est, and Lachesis and her father's rival Dr. Morard. The sorely under-powered Jūnochoon receives an overhaul with a LED Mirage engine from Sopp and is called to arms by an deeply inspired Clotho. As the anti-Hagooda movement reaches its peak, Colus decides to stage a counter-offensive, which results in victory for the Trio, but only at the cost of its

ruler's life at the hands of none other than Vralgo Kentauri. During the sudden attack on Jūnochoon, Clotho, with her master dead in the cockpit, employs every bit of the skill and strength entrusted to her in crushing Vralgo's MI-H Siren, but in the end loses consciousness and is sealed within her magnificent mortar headd. Finally, Vol. VIII jumps forward to the year 4071 and the anti-Amaterasu resistance movement on the planet Addler.



Warning:

Those readers who cannot for reasons physical, psychological or otherwise endure reading comics from right to left should seriously consider not purchasing this book and return it to the shelf.